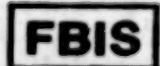


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3 December 1979

Latin America Report

No. 2080



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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINE MAGAZINE FOCUSES ON BRAZIL'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY

Buenos Aires CONFIRMADO in Spanish 18 Oct 79 p 54

[Article: "Diplomacy and Pragmatism"]

[Text] After countless squabbles with its neighbors to the south and west, some of which ended in open warfare, Brazil's orientation seems to be turning toward the north, in a new diplomatic campaign championed by Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro.

In recent weeks, Itamaraty has been taking the first steps toward an "aggiornamento" in Brazil's foreign policy, which is certainly obvious to its neighbors on the continent. Specific milestones in this unusual movement of flirtation will be the visit to Brasilia of the president of Peru, General Francisco Morales Bermudez, and that of his Mexican colleague, Jose Lopez Portillo, the latter at the beginning of next year. To make Brazil's interest in some of its neighbors even more visible, the president of Brazil himself, Joao Batista de Figueiredo, will shortly visit Venezuela. These two countries, Venezuela and Mexico, have priority in Brazilian foreign policy, according to the guidelines laid down in March of this year, when Figueiredo took power.

Mexico is an important producer of oil, and Brazil one of the largest importers of crude in the world; but there are also other topics which interest the Mexicans, who hold the upper hand in any matter of this nature, which could allow a substantial increase in commercial ties. The upcoming meeting of the joint Brazilian-Mexican commission, as well as the coming visit of Lopez Portillo, will take place against the same background.

Brazilian ties with Venezuela recently took on a new dimension, on the political as well as the commercial and economic level. Weeks ago, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro visited Caracas and signed an agreement of cooperation, which includes exchanges in the nuclear field.

But not everything is rosy for Brazilian diplomacy, in a world where there is a serious threat of future deterioration in the economy, and where the United States continues to impose protectionist clauses which make it difficult for countries which are newly industrialized (or at least in the process of becoming so) to open up markets. In the meeting which the Brazilian foreign minister recently had in Washington with the US Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, topics were dealt with relating to the export of Brazilian products, subsidies, and the much debated subject of North American protectionism. The position of Carter's government appears to be unyielding. "Vance pledged that, for now, Washington will not impose compensatory duties (countervailing duties), waiting until the end of this year so that Brazil may decide on the application of a plan for reduction of export incentives," Saraiva Guerreiro said recently.

According to these same statements of the Brazilian foreign minister, the United States will respect the Bergsten-Simonsen commercial agreement, which was signed in January of this year.

This new Brazilian foreign policy is not satisfied with increasing the ties to other countries of the continent. Its aspirations reach across the Atlantic. Saraiva recently alluded to "the neighbors to the east," referring to the Africans, with whom Brazil would like increased cooperation; and he even quoted the recently deceased President Agostinho Neto of Angola in repeating his support for any struggle against "colonialism and oppression" in Africa. "The struggle is continuing on all fronts," said Saraiva; but he refrained from mentioning that Brazil's own and exclusive pragmatism now and in the future is pointed in a northerly direction on the compass of future events.

8131
CSO: 3010

SPAIN'S BAZAN PUSHES NAVAL CRAFT SALE TO LATIN AMERICA

Madrid ACTUALIDAD ECONOMICA in Spanish 3-9 Nov 79 p 55

[Article by J.A.: "Naval Construction--Bazan Pushes Exports"]

[Text] After many aborted tries the military naval industry is beginning to reap its initial successes on international markets. The helicopter-carrier "PA 11" and the "Descubierta" class corvettes are the key units.

The activity witnessed last year by the commercial department of the Bazan National Enterprise and the start of production of the helicopter-carrier "PA 11"--a craft of United States design in which the Spanish fleet has made important changes--as in the case of the corvettes in the "Descubierta" class, a project in which foreign technology accounts only for some 20 percent--have managed to reactivate the operations of the Bazan firm, reduced following the drop in orders for merchant vessels.

The reactivation has again occurred through the export of these two prototypes. Right away, following the launching of the first helicopter-carrier slated for the Spanish navy anticipated for the end of 1981, Bazan plans to lay the hull of another twin model ordered by the Australian navy. In order to definitively consecrate the deal a visit by the chief admiral of the general staff of the Australian armed forces is expected. Argentina, India, and Thailand have also expressed interest in this craft.

But while the interest aroused by this model has been unusual, the corvettes in the "Descubierta" class do not lag behind. At this time the Bazan National Enterprise is building in Cartagena and Ferrol the sixth unit out of a total of eight ordered by the Spanish navy. Venezuela, for example, has already started negotiations with Bazan for the acquisition of four "Descubierta" class craft. The Moroccan government's interest in this type of craft is limited to one unit but it is already a firm order. The outcome of restricted bidding is also awaited for the adjudication of four units to the Thai navy. Brazil, Peru, and Mexico are interested in the model. This interest is leading to the circumnavigation of South America which the corvettes "Descubierta" and "Diana" will shortly undertake.

The commercial operations of the Bazan firm are dedicated at this time to testing possibilities in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. In the meantime, in its file Bazan has pending orders to build five coastguard cutters of 63 meters' length destined for Argentina, a transaction which King Juan Carlos I arranged personally on his recent visit to that country. To the coastguard cutters one must add four heavy patrol boats of the "Lazaga" class built under [West] German license, three heavy "Barcelo" class patrol boats (two of them already delivered to Mauritania), plus seven additional coastguard cutters whose sale is now being negotiated with Argentina.

But not everything is easy. According to the commercial director of the war craft department, Juan Blanco Traba, "the problems of financing which we are experiencing now prevent us from signing even more agreements. Competition in this field is very rough and matters such as the latter render our efforts very difficult." The countries with which the business is done--nearly all of them underdeveloped or developing--are not overly blessed with funds and "the terms that we can offer are clearly inferior to those made available by other countries."

2662

CSO: 3110

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE-VENEZUELAN COOPERATION--The Republic of Argentina is very interested in promoting and engaging in exchanges in the labor sector with Venezuela, according to Argentine Ambassador Juan Aguirre Lanari, who so informed Minister of Labor Dr Reinaldo Rodriguez Navarro in a visit to his office. During his visit, the Argentine diplomat made an offer to the Minister of Labor to make available to the Venezuelan ministry his broad experience in the union and social sectors and told him, "The Argentine union movement is one of the most powerful in the hemisphere due to the total independence permitted by the country's prosperous economy." He added that such experience is particularly in the union and social sectors, with retirement laws which are very broad in their coverage, training and recreation programs and welfare and social security programs. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Oct 79 pp 2-17] 8143

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION IN PARAGUAY--A delegation of the naval war school of the Brazilian Navy returned to Brazil yesterday after a 4-day visit. During their visit to the country, the delegation met with President Stroessner, Defense Minister Gen Samaniego and other high-ranking persons. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Nov 79 p 2 PY]

CSO: 3010

ARGENTINA

FUTURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES VENTILATED IN PRESS

Viola on Political Parties

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Oct 79 pp 9, 34

[Article on speech by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, at Belgrano University on 25 October 1979]

[Text] "Political parties, whose activities have been temporarily suspended, will in time play an extremely important role. They are the intermediaries between society and the state and are the natural forums for groups of men with political affinities."

These and other remarks were made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, in his speech on "strategy and our nation's future," which he delivered yesterday at Belgrano University.

With regard to the same topic of political parties, he added that "We should study the problems and formulate the solutions with a comprehensive approach, with sector interests coordinated in a national synthesis. When elections are called in our country, they will present their proposals for benefiting the people, which will consist of a coherent package of solutions for national problems and a team of men chosen from among the party's finest to carry forward their programs."

In taking a look at the contemporary world, the Army Commander-in-Chief asserted: "The West is proceeding along this path with relative clarity, and we can say to its favor that for the last 30 years it has prevented outright territorial annexations by the communist bloc and has kept under control the risk of a general confrontation in the form of total war."

He also pointed out in this regard that "the West, which has found nuclear deterrence to be an ideal tool for controlling overt territorial expansion by the socialist world, is likewise obliged to urgently conceive and execute a sort of 'counter-maneuver' to dispute and ultimately deny its adversary the ground on which its indirect strategy is making gains today without opposition."

"In the field of indirect strategy," he added, "internal maneuvers show up in grievance, subversive and terrorist movements, relying on social imbalances, an independence or decolonization movement, or any other circumstance that will weaken the power of the state in the country selected as a target. At the same time, external maneuvers are utilized to mobilize overseas public opinion in its favor, by securing support outside the theater of operations and seeking freedom of action, so that the former can act without interference from third parties, while simultaneously curtailing the freedom of action of the country under attack."

He then referred to the utilization of the mass media: "Movies, theater and music are a fearsome weapon in the hands of the aggressor. Protest songs, for example, played a leading role in preparing the climate of subversion that was brewing. They denounced social injustices, some of them real, others made up or distorted."

Continuing in the same vein, Lieutenant General Viola stated: "This kind of situation, conveniently accompanied by strong movements, weakened the government and slackened the authority of the state. The constitutional government vacillated between admitting that the enemy was right and cracking down on him, in the name of things in which it did not believe or regarded as unjust in advance. It was then that subversives, convinced that there was no moral strength left in the republic to oppose them, unleashed the guerrilla war and terrorism; the government was perplexed and failed to react because it was incapacitated by its own blunders and a not at all inconsiderable dose of a guilty conscience."

Further on, he explained: "The Armed Forces, without being prepared for it, were faced with an extraordinary choice: They could either observe the established order and passively witness the destruction of the democratic state and its violent replacement by a Marxist dictatorship, or they could shatter that order so as to defend it and re-establish a state of law when political circumstances so permitted."

"The response," he immediately added, "was the military government that emerged on 24 March 1976. It was not a traditional coup d'etat. In this case, the coup was not being staged by the military in order to take power, but by a militarized civilian group that the Armed Forces had to oppose in order to prevent it from achieving its ends."

"The state of law was temporarily suspended," Lieutenant General Viola went on to say, "in order to assure its subsequent survival. The entire might of the state was mobilized to defeat the subversives attacking it. It was essential for the state, thus mobilized, to overstep the bounds of legislation that was insufficient for the situation that it had to face, for waging a real war, with the additional element of cruelty inherent to civil strife. The battle was waged, and domestic subversive maneuvers were military crushed."

"The struggle required an exceptional concentration of power in the hands of the government, because this was an emergency, but it did not affect life in society in any aspects other than the struggle itself. Economic and social life continued as in peacetime, under a system of constitutional legal guarantees.

"Since then, an unusual order has prevailed in the country; the political rights to elect and be elected to government posts have been suspended, but the rest of the society's democratic structure is still in effect, in terms of rights and guarantees, to the extent that their exercise does not impair national security.

"In the area of external maneuvers, the subversive movement sought to isolate the Argentine state and to gain support that would guarantee it freedom of action, as its standard indirect strategy dictates. Its propaganda harped on the issue of violation of rights and, we are forced to admit, was echoed in many segments of the West," he added.

"In our country the enemy used an old tactical trap that has been often described but not very often understood in all of its ramifications. In a nation in which there is freedom, in which the state is self-restrained by law, it is perfectly possible for a group of people, operating in the underground, to launch an attack by utilizing procedures that can only be justified in the countries in which that freedom does not exist."

After these remarks Viola asserted that "The external maneuvers against the republic" entail on the part of the communist world, "its finest minds, its entire long-term planning capability and its economic power. With very few exceptions, the West refuses to view these activities as a manifestation of the ideological war, clinging to a concept of peace that views these activities as an expression of pluralism and the exercise of the right to dissent."

He continued along the same vein: "External maneuvers against Argentina are still active and dynamic today. Despite our efforts, we have not been able to ward them off completely because they are being undertaken in a favorable social climate."

He recalled a remark by Beaufre to the effect that "the success of the indirect counter-maneuver lies in the political line underlying it, in the clarity with which it is expressed, in the support that it awakens among the public and, of course, in the conviction and sincerity with which its leaders carry it out."

At another point in his address he stated that the current government's political line "runs counter to the Marxist conception, which is based on the dictatorship of the proletariat and the class struggle, because it supports the idea of a pluralistic society in which the legal system guarantees man his right to be different and to live differently and to arrange his life free from interference from others or the state. This open,

pluralistic and tolerant society asserts that it is contrary to the natural order to try and deny any man the right to choose and work out his individual destiny and to participate in forging the destiny of society. It entails the acceptance of a system of majority rule in determining the will of the people and for the functioning of the bodies that are to reflect it, within the framework of a system of periodic elections, respect for minorities, the reporting of activities, etc."

He added the following remarks in connection with the political party system: "We should also stress that other ideologies attack the party system as well, claiming that it fragments society, while declaring that they are unable to promote a higher moral order. This is erroneous and unjust. It is unjust because it entails a lack of faith in man's ability to provide for his own salvation; it is erroneous because they are ignoring that although the diversity of proposals reflects a pluralism inherent to democracy, it also entails a basic agreement among all these differing views as to the foundations of the system. They are unaware that preceding and underlying these differences there is a system of fundamental beliefs that all of the parties and segments of society share. This system of fundamental beliefs is the basis for civilized coexistence and to a certain degree, the justification for the differences that exist pursuant to it. Obviously, the broader and more solid that this common foundation is, the greater will be the stability of the system as a whole, and the less severe the trauma that is always involved in a change of government."

"One of the priority responsibilities that the Armed Forces government has assumed in the process which it embodies is to forge this basic consensus, which must comprise not only the basic principles on which the system rests, but also as wide-ranging an agreement as possible with regard to all problems that by their very nature can be placed outside the political struggle. Based on this common foundation of conduct and conviction, as accepted by the majority, the various political approaches vie in absolute freedom, join together, are rejected, upset the social equilibrium and then re-establish it again. The representatives of capital and labor vie for the profits of doing business in a dynamic social relationship guided by and in keeping with the law; the various social forces strive to better or to consolidate their positions of power. This variety means life, and this struggle among differing interests means the hope and vigor of peaceful change towards more generous modes of social organization."

"Another issue the imprecise treatment of which tends to muddle the clear understanding required by the matter that we are dealing with is security, in other words, the inability of democracy to defend itself against the aggression of the left wing, which by taking advantage of the opportunities for freedom that full-fledged democracy offers, infiltrates its political institutions and penetrates its social organizations in a bid to topple them from within."

"The response to this concern is simple, once we accept that the political system has no place for groups that do not acknowledge as a precondition

the common groundwork of beliefs that we spoke of previously and which include freedom, republican institutions and a state of law. Hence, no one can dispute that in the face of the armed attack aimed at replacing the established order with violence, the state has the right to defend itself with arms, because there is no other response to this sort of activity. Thus, it is even legitimate to momentarily suspend the exercise of certain rights and guarantees in order to provide the state the operational capability that it requires to effectively crack down on these anti-social manifestations. When the attack is unarmed and instead takes the form of the dissemination of ideologies that promote violence as a means of social change or that uphold principles contrary to the foundations of the democratic system, the course to be followed is the restraining legislation that determines the action of the judiciary and the police in support of it."

"In outline form, this is the political conception with which the National Reorganization Process undertook the struggle against subversion; this is the political line on which the armed struggle was based. To use Clausewitz' terms, this is the objective and the *raison d'être* of the war, which plays a purely instrumental role. The use of arms is a mere accident and they will not have yielded any benefits whatsoever if they are not capable of consolidating the political system in whose service they were used. Nevertheless, even when we succeed in our goal, we must not forget that ours has been a battle in a far-off region of a much larger front. Our success will be definitively consolidated only when it secures the recognition and solidarity of the West as a whole, in technical terms, when the adversary's outside maneuvers have been crushed, like its domestic maneuvers. Otherwise, the latent threat will remain, awaiting favorable conditions to undertake a new revolutionary experiment.

"I said at the beginning of this talk that the West has responded with relative success to the challenge of power that the communist world has posed to it, in state-to-state terms.

"The policy of detente, whose first steps were taken with the death of Stalin, has borne fruit only for the socialist world, which has seen its tense domestic economic situation alleviated by technology and capital from the West, without curbing the military pressures that it continues to exert throughout the front of struggle. In any case, the diplomatic digressions which it prompted have only softened the terms of the confrontation between states, or the direct strategy, without touching at all upon the issue of indirect maneuvering."

Towards the close of his speech General Viola referred to the ideological confrontation between the West and communism: "People are denying," he said, "that this war exists; they are closing their eyes to the fact that the objective of this war is world domination in order to transform society and, obviously, man himself in a socialist direction. The developed West is seemingly unwilling to realize that the aggression is also and particularly directed against it, and it often absolves and supports the aggressor as soon as he conveys his complaints through a representative.

"There are several Latin American countries that could testify that the West has observed their difficulties with feelings ranging from indifference to hostility. We do not contend, however, that any conflict of any nature comes under the heading of total ideological confrontation just because it is a conflict. Neither do we believe in the physical existence of a 'single headquarters for revolutionary operations,' to which all of the threads of the tragedy can be traced. It is general knowledge that there is operational decentralization and strategical independence, as well as autonomous and unrestrained groups outside the central leadership that can unleash subversion and terrorism in any location, independent of the tactical directives and even the interests of international communism.

"What alarms us is to hear how the West refuses to view Marxism as an ideological unit, as a single strategic course of aggression, as a single-minded utilization of local conflicts and as a final war objective."

Concerns, Doubts Expressed

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 28 Oct 79 pp 10-11

[Article by Carlos Fernandez]

[Text] A social get-together late Friday night was prolonged until early Saturday morning by several members of the diplomatic corps stationed in our country, businessmen and a number of politicians. The speeches by Viola and Lambruschini, to a large extent, and the address by Pastor at the OAS assembly (specifically, the paragraphs dealing with the practice of representative democracy) were the point of departure for a series of reflections on the country's political future.

Towards the end of the get-together, with Buenos Aires weighed down by a humid and at times stifling atmosphere that presaged the storm that hit the city yesterday, a high-ranking diplomat of unquestioned prestige in this circle was asked his opinion regarding political developments in Argentina.

The diplomat, a man of vast political experience, felt that we had to take two facts into account in assessing the future of this area. On the one hand, he pointed out, the direct experience that the country has gained indicated to him a certain degree of disappointment among the members of the Argentine community with regard to "the method of practicing politics." The other noteworthy fact, in his opinion, is the large number of political parties in our country, which casts direct doubts, he added, on the degree of representivity that they can achieve and the extent of involvement that they can awaken in the community.

The viewpoints expressed on this occasion were almost unanimously backed by those in attendance, and their questions reflected in a general way the doubts that various power groups have regarding the future of politics in Argentina, as a general and core issue, and about the future of political parties, as a specific issue.

The speeches that Viola and Lambruschini delivered on Thursday, however, give a number of indications as to what is being attempted. The Army Commander-in-Chief pointed out that the parties "will in time play an extremely important role," noting that they are an appropriate forum for "examining problems and working out solutions with a comprehensive approach that coordinates the interests of sectors in a national synthesis." When elections are called in the country, "they will present their proposals for benefiting the people," Viola stated.

Lambruschini spoke in Cordoba about relations between the state and the community and after acknowledging the function of political parties in a democratic society, he asserted: "No serious and efficient organization can conceive of political parties as ends in themselves or as institutions that transcend the objectives and the needs of the society in which they operate in their various ways and with their individual features. The parties," Lambruschini reflected, "must become organizations in which the leadership classes emerge, develop and renew themselves, classes that can guide the country to a destiny of grandeur and perceive the unavoidable demands of the common good even though they are part of special interest groupings."

How will these objectives be carried out? The political program that the Armed Forces are drawing up will be the general framework from which, it is said, they will in due time extract the instruments (political parties statute, election law, etc.) that will govern the transformation. A reliable military spokesman has pointed out, however, that the entire weight of this change should not be placed on the shoulders of the law. In his opinion, we have to forge a sufficient awareness so that we achieve an effective and forward-looking approach, and this, he noted, also involves dialogue, an exchange of ideas, and persuasion. Replacing leadership personnel is a central issue in these dynamics. Much of the change must come about as a result of the energy that the political groups themselves develop. This will ultimately have to do with the methodology that the government adopts to bring about the replacements.

The dialogue would be undertaken soon after this process, in other words, when in the opinion of the Armed Forces government, the representative features of party leaders have changed. This is closely tied, moreover, to the representivity of the parties, the number of which it is the aim to reduce.

This is, in summary, an issue for which many alternatives are being formulated and in which time will play a preponderant role.

The Path of Democracy

"Democracy is the best political system that has been developed to channel and direct society," Pastor asserted at the OAS assembly. He went on to specify that the goal of the National Reorganization Process, the future of Argentina, "will be achieved through democracy, and there will be no major sacrifices in achieving this objective."

Our foreign minister's speech, which came after Orfila's re-election, headed off an attempt, the visible leader of which was Jimenez, the foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, to form a sort of bloc of countries with democratic governments to set him at odds with countries having military governments. The election obviously did not yield the desired result, considering the majority that Orfila rapidly secured. In addition, the notion upset the U.S. Government, which is forcefully trying to deny accounts to the effect that Carter favors an accelerated democratizing trend in this part of the continent, in order to win some points that he can utilize in his country's nomination battle.

Diplomatic circles insist that Jimenez' maneuver worked out to Orfila's benefit, inasmuch as it prompted total support from the United States, with a number of countries hastily following suit. Now then, we will soon be able to judge whether the intentions attributed to Carter are true or not.

Balbin Voices Skepticism

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 15 Oct 79 p 5

[Text] Dr Ricardo Balbin, an enthusiast of integration issues, told EL DIA that "Nations must learn to understand each other, because so far, cooperation has comprised only economic aspects. Political agreements on the continent are what will provide an opportunity for union. With all due respect, I think that the Organization of American States has only served to disperse, not to unite us." The leader of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] of the Argentine Republic stressed that "there have been two eras in Latin American politics: the era of the liberators and the era of men, like Batlle and Yrigoyen, who wanted to forge democracies. This was a moment when countries that later drifted apart were closest. Subsequently there emerged agreements of all sorts that prompted tariff problems or that unified economic interests but which did not ultimately lead to what must be a basic policy for nations. I have come to the conclusion that nations are divided by leaders because people get used to not liking each other as a result of the attitude of their leaders." In addition, Dr Balbin underscored that "countries do not have economic leadership until they achieve political stability." He also emphasized that "regional economies can be set up, but not economies of confrontation, such as the so-called ABC (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile), a bloc that runs counter to Yrigoyen's radicalism because it seems to be a defense pact which, moreover, Uruguay, a sister nation, is excluded from."

The Current Situation

The Argentine democratic leader recalled that from 1853 to 1930 his country experienced unusual political stability. "Its interruption almost a half century ago was followed by all of the processes of distortion that have created such a difficult situation for us, and we have still not been able to find a way out," Dr Balbin cautioned. His opinions can be summarized in the following points:

--Argentine youths are interested in politics but lack opportunities to express themselves. Therefore, the UCR strongly calls for the organization of political parties. This should not be confused with a call for elections, merely for the country to be able to express its opinions through party institutions.

--We are very concerned about the lack of positive youth activity, because this could create a generation of disillusioned individuals.

--The so-called "Generation of 1880" created a country for a minority, whereas the generation of 1890, to which Batlle belonged, created the expression of a nation and thus enabled a democratic awareness to emerge.

--In contrast to Peronism, the UCR has a horizontal structure in which women play a leading role. The problem is that, in general terms, they have less weight in times of institutional disruptions.

--There has been talk for some time in Argentina about a political proposal. Personally, I do not think that it exists. I believe that what is being called a political proposal is merely the way in which the second term of the Armed Forces will be filled after General Videla's mandate has concluded.

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ARGENTINA

1980 ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES TO UNDERGO REFORMS

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Oct 79 p 11

[Article by Alcadio Ona]

[Text] Our economic authorities have set a rigorous priority for themselves in 1980: to close the year with a two-digit inflation rate, a goal that was originally supposed to be met 21 months after their efforts began. But given the tools that will be activated, the objective that the Treasury has outlined for itself will not entail an abandonment of any of the structural budgets that come under the economic program.

Thus, what is regarded as the main recourse of the anti-inflation strategy is, at the same time, a singularly suitable mechanism for the policy of opening up the economy: obviously, the exchange rate.

Also, under the new tariff structure that the Treasury has set up, the exchange rate will have a selective impact on the makeup of the economy, in keeping with the specialization pattern sought by the Treasury.

But if from this viewpoint the manipulation of the exchange rate can play an anti-inflation and economy-opening role at the same time, seen from another angle, it specifically helps to meet the short-term needs of economic planning.

Some weeks ago, Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz held successive meetings with the officials closest to him, to decide what approach to take in connection with public tariffs in 1980. After a detailed analysis of all the implications of each hypothesis under study, the minister decided that next year the tariffs would be adjusted in accordance with changes in the exchange rate, plus the percentage of external inflation.

This approach means dispensing with the requirements set forth by practically all of the managers of state enterprises, which initially seemed to have the approval of other officials in the Economy Ministry. Specifically, they were calling for a 30 percent tariff hike as of next 1 January in order to offset the lag that "official prices" are going to experience in 1979.

According to private estimates (from the Foundation of Research for Development), the combination of external inflation and internal devaluation will yield a rate of 47 percent in 1980, which would be how much tariffs would rise in 1980.

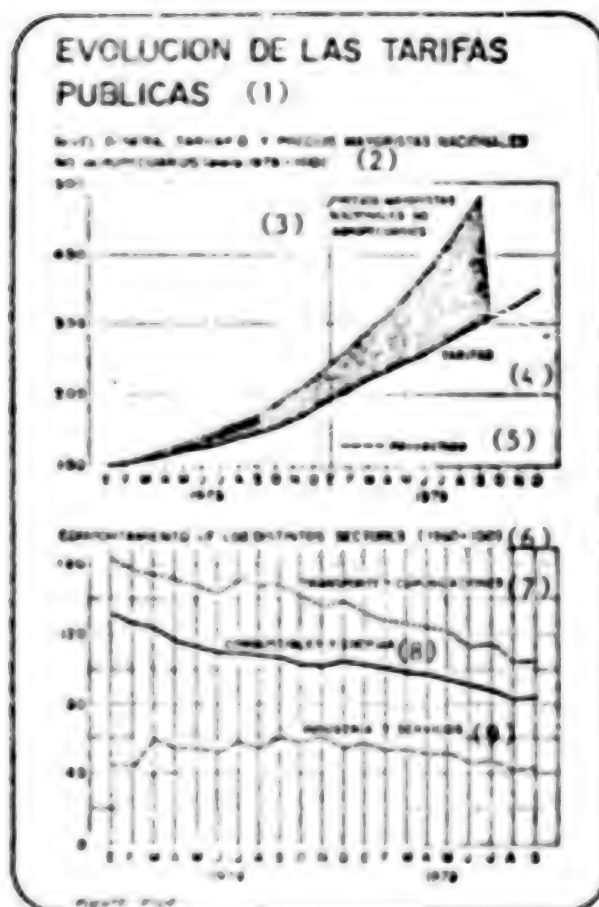
According to reliable sources, the prevailing approach at the time took into account the effects that the move would have on the scheduled projects of public enterprises.

But this is not the only delay that the official anti-inflation strategy will cause in 1980. The economy minister reportedly also decided that the announced reform of the value added tax would not be put into effect in 1980.

The Finance Secretariat will continue formulating the corresponding bill, which will even be sent to the Legislative Advisory Commission with a view towards its subsequent passage. The customary procedures for all bills will be observed, but with one exception: the effective date of the reform will be left up to the Executive Branch.

All indications are that the Economy Ministry decided to postpone the implementation of the value added tax reform because of the inflationary effects that the measure implicitly entails. We should recall that the bill calls for bringing not only the farm sector but also a series of mass consumption items under the VAT system. The authorities are trying to stave off the impact that these reforms could have on prices in 1980, a year in which curbing inflation is more important than ever.

To judge from recent official statements, there will be a number of other consequences of the frontal battle against inflation that will be waged next year, consequences directly linked to the pace of economic activity and the unemployment rate. If these forecasts prove correct, income distribution throughout the economy will also very likely be affected.



Key:

1. Developments in public tariffs
2. General tariff level and non-farm domestic wholesale prices
3. Non-farm domestic wholesale prices
4. Tariffs
5. Estimated
6. Developments in the various sectors
7. Transportation and communication
8. Fuels and energy
9. Industry and services

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FRIGERIO REPUDIATES IMPORT TARIFFS POLICY

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Oct 79 p 9

[Text] "The country is being invaded by imported goods that our workers and businessmen could produce and by dollars going into financial speculation, not productive investments," stated Rogelio Frigerio, who was invited by the Professional Council of Attorneys and Prosecutors of Resistencia, Chaco to lecture on topics in economic history.

Among the many attending the event, which was held at the Department of Economic Sciences, was the dean of the advanced studies institution, Dr Antonio Besil, Dr Edwin Eric Tissenbaum and Dr Jose E. Dib, the president and secretary of the aforementioned professional council.

"Ever since the current team took charge of the economy," Frigerio said, "and despite their promise that we would shift from an economy of speculation to an economy of production, financial and speculative activities have flourished while productive activities have wilted. But things have now gotten to an extreme with the deliberate postponement of the exchange parity. So far this year, scarcely \$131 million have entered the country in direct investment, whereas more than \$3 billion has come in for financial investments, and the pace is speeding up, with \$200 million a week entering for this purpose."

He went on to say: "Besides the financial impact and in addition to eliminating opportunities for the export sector, the overvaluation of the peso vis-a-vis the dollar is combined with a tariff cut to make imports less expensive. Entire branches of our industry are in an untenable situation because of the indiscriminate inflow of all sorts of foreign goods. This is not how efficiency is achieved, although the efficiency of our workers and businessmen is not the problem. By mere virtue of a decree, the country cannot leap to a higher level of technology, and our businessmen cannot cut production costs below the

level set by high taxes, inefficient public services and inflation. They cannot compete with U.S. businessmen, who are at a different stage of economic and technological development."

Later on he said: "The statement that the country is trying for a convergence of domestic inflation levels and international inflation levels is, in reality, a justification for the state intervention practiced by people who call themselves liberals; it is a justification for the policy of setting rigid exchange guidelines in spite of our currency's actual status. If a convergence were achieved, the dollars that are flowing in precisely because of the lag in the exchange parity would dry up, and there would no longer be an influx of imports, which is so dear to the 'open door' policy and so much to the liking of the transnational corporations."

He then stated: "We are at this level of inflation, which in reality is higher because it is being statistically understated owing to the wage freeze and the lags in adjusting the exchange parity and public tariffs, even though a recession has been forced on us in a world that is moving forward. Between 1974 and 1978, the underdeveloped countries recorded an average growth of 13 percent, whereas in Argentina we had a drop of 3.2 percent during the same period. And we can hardly speak of a recovery by citing 1979 figures, which are high only in comparison to 1978, which was the lowest point since the 1930 crisis, inasmuch as the per capita GDP for this year is estimated to be 3.3 percent below the 1974 level."

At the close of his address Frigerio said: "We have to alter the current course and we have to do it soon. We have to do it before the damage being done becomes irreparable, before the social situation gets out of hand and before the credibility of the military government vanishes. Those who appointed and are supporting the current economic team no longer have the same courage of their convictions regarding their promise to reorganize the country. This is bad, because it could open up a gap between the people and the Armed Forces, between those who must remain united in order to preclude a return to a past to which no one wants to return."

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BENEDIT ADMITS TO CRISIS IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Oct 79 p 13

[Text] "The government is aware of the difficulties that the industrial sector is experiencing," stated the secretary of industrial development, Pablo Benedit, in his speech at the monthly luncheon of IDEA [Institute for the Development of Businessmen in Argentina]. He also referred to the problems caused by the struggle against inflation and to the objectives of reconverting national industry.

The secretary of industrial development, Pablo Benedit, pointed out yesterday that the government is aware of the difficulties that national industry is experiencing and that they stem from the battle against inflation. He also stated that the concept of industrial reconversion means complementing, not throwing out what has already been done.

The secretary spoke at the monthly luncheon of IDEA, which was held in the rooms of the Argentine Rural Association. He pointed out that his speech was a prologue to the 15th annual association colloquy, at which future industrial strategy will be taken up, among other topics.

"We are aware," Benedit said, "of the industrial sector's difficulties. Other sectors (why not come out and say it?) are also experiencing real or psychological difficulties which stem from the priority battle against inflation."

"In the pursuit of in-depth changes," he continued, "in the rules of the game, the adjustments and poor phasings have harmful and undesirable effects, both because of asymmetry and asynchronism. This makes sense in pursuing a course towards a more rationally disciplined and reasonably open economy with more moderate inflation levels."

After clarifying that "these words should not be construed as a lack of sensitivity to or consideration for the everyday problems that the various sectors of the economy have to live with," the industrial development secretary broached "in outline form a number of the facets of the economic policies that the government is pursuing."

"At present," the secretary asserted, "our industry, which is now in an expansion stage, is not, in general terms, up to date as far as equipment, machinery and technology are concerned. This, in turn, meant that skilled jobs were being created at a slower pace than the growth of the active skilled population."

Benedict explained that "as of 1976 (we do not have subsequent figures), this meant that there was a sort of devaluation in pay for skilled jobs on an international comparative basis, because of excess supply. This can be clearly seen in the well-known exodus of technicians, although this might have started to slow down over the last 2 years."

For these reasons, he described the sought-after goal as "an industry that is in keeping with our population and with our geographical realities, which requires skilled and highly skilled personnel and which, therefore, must make mass use of high-level technology."

Benedict then indicated that development "necessarily entails a modernization and general reoutfitting of our industrial facilities, as well as a freer inflow and outflow of know-how, which will bring about a wide dissemination of advanced technologies and know-how."

"Hence," he added, "our concept of industrial reconversion is clear-cut. Our reconversion must not mean throwing overboard what we have already done; it means complementing and rounding it out by bringing in both new know-how and new goods. It is more important to add than to substitute."

Benedict explained in conclusion that economic policy "is assigning priority to the development of energy and communications in budget planning. These policies are totally consistent with what I announced previously: energy for industrial development and good communications for a vast and scantily populated country."

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LABOR CONTINUES PRESSING WAGE DEMANDS

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 22 Oct 79 p 7

[Article by Claudio Polosecki]

[Text] It is a significant development that more than 6,000 workers from various branches of production (according to officially acknowledged figures) have taken strong measures over the past week in support of their demands for higher wages, at a time when laws are still in effect that prohibit and punish union activities and that specifically rule out the right to strike.

It is also significant, for the same reasons, that by the close of the week the number of protesting workers was down almost 50 percent from the initially mentioned figure, thanks to agreements between the parties or through conciliation efforts by the Ministry of Labor.

Obviously, the agitated situation in regard to wages that exists in almost all labor circles has not yet completely faded, but it is also clear that the heads of the public labor administration underwent one of their harshest tests last week in carrying out the ministry's tasks, and with a not inconsiderable degree of success.

They were no doubt able to settle in just a few days the conflicts that had arisen in at least 10 manufacturing establishments, without ever having to resort to extreme measures, because they adopted an approach and a philosophy to deal with the problem that unquestionably helped, at the least, not to worsen a situation that looked genuinely troublesome from an overall perspective and on a long-term basis.

Pursuant to this approach, which consisted above all of dealing with each one of the cases calmly and objectively, union newsmen were given unexpected relief from their tiring work of the last few days in the form of daily official reports on developments in the various conflicts. These reports were truly extraordinary because they even included the conflicts that the press had not detected.

This strategy, in all of its manifestations, obviously helped to partly dampen the wave of conflicts that has still not passed. The question still remains, however, of whether it will be sufficient in the future to deal with the situations that will be prompted by the continued application of a wage policy that in itself triggers demands, most of them unorganized.

The pressures and vigorous reaction of workers in numerous industrial establishments prompted many businesses on this occasion to grant wage hikes higher than they had planned on, even after new wage indexing mechanisms were implemented when firms were unable to cope with higher outlays.

Recent experience has shown the basic class of union leaders, many of whom are factory representatives who emerged from spontaneously held events, that the path of activist demands is open to them when their aspirations are not being met. No one can tell how long the method of conciliation will bear fruit as long as there are no laws permitting organized channels for demonstrations.

In any case, because of the calm attitude that the authorities adopted on this occasion, the climate of wage unrest did not lead to an uncontrollable situation.

This seems to be the same approach in connection with the passage of the new Trade Union Associations Law, the anticipated enactment of which around this time would have triggered wideranging and unforeseeable consequences.

It is also a fact that top-level union leaders, grouped within the CUTA [Single Union of Argentine Workers], decided to proceed cautiously as well in connection with the wave of conflicts and that, aside from a statement here and there, did not attempt to take advantage of the disputes that arose.

At their last meeting (and possible again at their next one tomorrow), the members of CUTA were absorbed mainly in matters relating to internal workings and the sector's international commitments.

Some of CUTA's main concerns so far have been discussions about the way in which its affiliates will be set up in the interior and drawing up the list of delegates who will be attending, as guests, the upcoming congresses of the AFL-CIO, CIOSL [International Confederation of Free Union Organizations] and the FRG's union organization.

It was learned that the only delegation with sufficient support to make the trip consists of trade union leaders Jorge Triacca, Otto

Calace, Rene Azar, Ricardo Perez, Alfonso Millan and an as yet unspecified member of the former "25." To this list would be added telephone and postal workers union leader Ramon Antonio Baldassini, because he is a member of the Board of Directors of the IL0, and taxi drivers union leader Roberto Garcia, as the vice president of CIOSL, although his reelection to the post is now a debatable issue.

The list will be confirmed next week, and the authorities will also spell out the approach that they will be taking to deal with a number of persistent conflicts, such as the case of the paper CRONICA.

At the most strictly official level, the formal appointment of the new military interventor at SUPE [Union of State Petroleum Workers] is also anticipated. Last Friday, this union was set in motion by the interventor at the General Labor Confederation, Col Rolando Rojas.

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LABOR REACTION TO PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS LAW UNPREDICTABLE

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Oct 79 p 11

[Article by Claudio Polosecki]

[Text] How will the labor movement react to the new Workers Trade Union Associations Law? The question, which is being asked more and more in light of announcements of its imminent enactment, concerns not only government authorities and political observers but many union leaders as well.

Everyone realizes that the new legislation will make in-depth changes in Argentina's traditional labor structure, but by the same token, we cannot now tell for certain whether current union leaders will choose to confront the government once it is enacted or whether, on the contrary, they will lean towards trying to establish some sort of dialog with the authorities in order to influence its enforcement and the future process of choosing new union leaders.

The fact is, expectations surrounding the emergence of the new union law have led the so-called Single Union of Argentine Workers (CUTA), which currently includes most union leaders, to begin marking time in connection with its decisions.

These expectations prompted it to ask the Military Junta for an audience "to express the labor movement's opinion on this extremely important issue" for its future. They also certainly influenced the response given to the secretary of finance, Juan Alemann, in which a subtly sarcastic tone replaced the violent language that had been used just hours before in response to the petition regarding public works that a group of business institutions had published.

Within the framework of widespread wage demands by union rank-and-file and in light of the imminence of final government decisions, union leaders are obviously trying to show an increasing presence on the country's political scene, while taking extreme care not to encourage actions that would lead to an irreversible breakoff of relations with the authorities.

At the same time, however, this approach leaves behind a trail of precedents and stands that could, when the time comes, serve as a justification for a bombshell decision.

For the time being, CUTA has shown that it can go to unusually aggressive lengths when it comes to defending the labor movement's traditional positions on issues that are of direct interest to it, such as public works, and the response to the business groups, led by the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, that issued a statement on them, shows how far it can go when the brakes of political interest are not applied.

The Alemann episode, on the other hand, presented quite different features, inasmuch as his statements were not only interpreted as a provocation aimed at removing the organized labor movement from the debate on the associations law, but also, in the view of the trade union leaders, clearly show that one of the goals that current economic policy is pursuing is, in fact, to weaken the labor structure.

For the same reasons, Juan Alemann's statements, and especially his response to the CUTA document, prompted thinly disguised uneasiness in government circles, especially at the Labor Ministry, which besides issuing the special communique on the matter, did not hesitate to describe his attitude as "brusque," the exact word used by an official close to Minister Llamil Reston.

In any case, the statement released by the minister was measuredly temperate, but it did not fail to stress that the goal of government action in this area is normalization of union and business activity.

The Labor Ministry intervened in the Alemann-CUTA clash mainly because it is the ministry least interested in allowing a further rarefying of the politico-union atmosphere at a time when it has to cope with a wave of wage conflicts and with the prospect of having to direct the difficult transition to normalized union organizations.

In this regard, last week brought new moves aimed at creating an atmosphere suited to the implementation of the new union law; the announcement was issued that the interventions at two of the mercantile union's affiliates, Lanus y Avellaneda and La Rioja, would cease, and within a month they will have a "normalizer" appointed by the Confederation of Commerce Employees.

Expectations regarding the characteristics of the new times in store for organized labor once the new union law is enacted have also helped to smooth out the internal differences that emerged within CUTA and about which a number of the printed media engaged in profuse speculation.

The fact of the matter is that current differences between the members of the former CNT [National Confederation of Workers] and the former "25" regarding the reelection of taxi union leader Roberto Garcia as vice president of the CIOSL [International Confederation of Free Union Organizations] at the confederation's upcoming congress in Madrid, are being handled within a framework that is carefully avoiding confrontation.

The CNT's bid to place in that post one of its best known leaders, the current national head of a powerful trade union, has to do not so much with the current situation as with the possibility that the post could serve as a springboard, after a pact with the American AFL-CIO, for the Argentine labor movement to take over the presidency of the ORIT [Regional Inter-American Labor Organization] next year. ORIT comprises CIOSL-member unions on the American continent.

In any case, all of these speculations are subject to the approval and features of the new Associations Law, which, if enacted in the next few days, could even cause the suspension of the trip by the CUTA delegation, which is supposed to leave for the United States and Europe to take part in the congresses of the AFL-CIO and CIOSL.

The delegation, which, as CLARIN anticipated last Monday, is made up of Jorge Triacca, Otto Calace, Rene Azar, Alfonso Millan, Ricardo Perez and Roberto Digon, includes the two candidates most likely to fill Garcia's post at CIOSL, and its activities overseas will vary greatly depending on whether the Associations Law is promulgated or not before 10 November, the date it is supposed to leave.

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ARGENTINA

LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES URGED TO OPEN ECONOMIC FRONTIERS

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Oct 79 p 16

[Text] "These talks are an excellent opportunity for the developing countries to furnish an example of what we can accomplish among ourselves in the field of opening economic frontiers," the undersecretary of international economic negotiations asserted yesterday at a meeting of GATT in Geneva. Juan Dumas, who was referring to the upcoming trade negotiations among underdeveloped countries, said at another point that "in order to make progress in the field of economic integration, we will necessarily have to aim at cutting tariffs considerably below current levels."

Opening Economic Frontiers

The Treasury official asserted that "the number one priority is clearly negotiating tariff cuts. Other issues, such as financing, freight charges, insurance, etc, will be important only to the extent that substantial gains are scored in the tariff negotiations."

"Argentina," Dumas also asserted, "plans to achieve the greatest possible tariff integration with the greatest number of countries, and this is how it will approach these future talks. Argentina feels that we will be wasting a truly extraordinary opportunity if these negotiations are limited to a small number of goods per country. We feel that in this regard we must broach the issue ambitiously and boldly by bringing to the bargaining table a majority of our tariff lists. To do otherwise would be to minimize our best concrete possibility for economic cooperation among the developing countries, in other words, a mutual and truly significant expansion of our markets."

"But the number of products involved will not be the only decisive factor; there is also the approach to consolidating tariff levels," he went on to say.

"In this regard, Argentina feels that we would be detracting from the significance of this effort if we were to consolidate current tariff levels, or worse still, higher ones. If this were the approach, it would imply that the developing countries have merely decided that protectionism among them for certain products will not intensify."

"We are convinced that this modest goal is not the one spurring us all on today."

Tariff Cuts and Economic Integration

"In order to make progress in the field of economic integration among the developing countries, we will necessarily have to aim at cutting tariffs considerably below current levels," Dumas added.

"These cuts could be across-the-board, across-the-board by sectors or by product. In some cases it might even be useful to consolidate a given margin of tariff preferences."

"It is also clear that every effort must be made to insure that the tariff reductions cannot be offset by non-tariff restrictions."

"Argentina agrees that a trade negotiations committee should be set up among the developing countries in order to spell out more quickly the mechanics and the scope of these negotiations," the undersecretary pointed out.

"As a final thought," Dumas concluded, "I can say that Argentina feels that this upcoming round of talks is an unequalled opportunity to bring about among ourselves what we often call for from others. Argentina wants these negotiations to give rise to a new panorama, a new balance, a new trend in world trade relations, marked by unsuspected growth in trade among developing countries, by expanding and heightening the regional efforts put forth in this field."

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CSO: 3010

COLUMNISTS EXPRESS VIEWS ON NEW INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM

Parties Not Essential

Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 21 Oct 79 p 3

[Article by Pablo Rodriguez Grez: "Democracy, Politicians and Parties"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] It is time to concretely define /democracy/, a word that serves as a decoy to increase the discontent of a sector of Chileans that is becoming less important. Right now, a phalanx of old, moth-eaten celebrities are walking along the worn-out public paths and stupidly insisting on "reestablishing democracy and freedom." What democracy and what freedom are these failures talking about? Naturally, they are talking about the one that gave all the power to them and their comrades, which was apparently renewed every 6 years when the government passed from one party to another and in which the national treasury, considered the spoils of the electoral war, was shamefully distributed to partisans, relatives and devoted followers. How many years did this country have to put up with the "relay" that the politicians organized to transfer power in an interminable race whose result was always the same: wealth for the opportunists and poverty for the people?

Happily that entire farce seems to have ended. It is, therefore, understandable that those who exploited the system cry disconsolately today and are not resigned to ostracism, the necessary consequence of their weaknesses and irrexcusable errors.

The "proposals" of a group of 24 former politicians who loudly proclaim that they have created an institutional alternative--only appropriate for rallies and radio and television networks--merely represent the return to the old constitutional system that became so corroded by Marxist influence that it destroyed itself through the election by the /full congress/ of a confessed and declared adversary of that same democracy which they try to revive today. Why didn't

these champions of political freedom defend it when it was within their power to stop the process that made the head of a coalition slavishly inspired by Castro communism president of Chile with only one-third of the votes? These "democrats" are the ones who annihilated democracy and who today shamelessly present themselves as its reconstructors. Can anyone believe in their sincerity and patriotism?

Politicians

The ineptitude of a handful of unscrupulous people cannot compromise all politicians who, with a vocation and spirit for service, have helped glorify Chile. Portales, Prieto, Montt, Varas, Alessandri and many others were politicians. General Pinochet continues to be one in the same style. The problem has roots and causes. The system created by the 1925 Constitution was adequate for its time but suffered slow historic attrition. This was deliberately accelerated by communism which led the country to anarchy, politicking and demagoguery. The politicians who surrendered to those who aimed to destroy freedom, the politicians who did not see the danger because of unforgivable nearsightedness and the politicians who saw it but did not avert it deserve permanent rejection from a people who, with resignation, suffered the dramatic consequences of this historic regression. Remember, for example, the secret Allende-Tomic pact to prevent Alessandri's victory in 1970. Consequently, these charges are limited and specific and are against those responsible for consciously dragging Chile into the worst crisis in the memory of our independent life.

The 6 years without partisan politics have yielded more results for this country than the last three decades of political governments with the added attraction of avoiding a civil war. If the usefulness and the curative virtues that this debated ban has had on the moral order were denied, it would mean ignoring the depth of the abyss into which we were plunged by the middle of 1973.

The "professional politician" is a corrupt son of the formal and decadent democracy whose only objective is to serve as a bridge in order to facilitate access to power by totalitarian parties--as did, in fact, occur.

Their rejection by the people and the reluctance with which the immense majority of our compatriots listen to their "proposals" and their loud lamentations are well earned.

Political Parties

The democracy that Chile needs is not the one that reigned in 1970, no matter how many face-lifts the new "cosmetologists" in government

and in the opposition try to give it. To maintain, as is done superficially, that there can be no democracy without political parties or that these are inherent to it is a fallacy that does not stand up to any analysis.

Without ignoring the right of every man to freely associate, what is needed is the creation of fluid channels of civic expression. When the constitution establishes channels that barely include 5 percent of the national electorate--like the political parties in 1970--/democracy is nothing more than a fairy tale at the service of a minuscule group of privileged people/. Meanwhile, thousands of natural organizations in which the popular will is revealed remain subordinate to the arbitrariness of those who monopolize power by grace of that system. In the past, every intermediate body remained subject to partisan plans that were the supreme law of the land.

I repeat once more that the political parties are not suitable instruments to interpret the feeling of the people, to express their desires and to exercise their sovereign right. Those who try to re-establish them, far from supporting an authentic democratic proposal, deny the possibility that the majority politically lead the state.

Danger of Immobility

It is unquestionable that this administration, as we have indicated on other occasions, practices what has been called "planned immobility." It does not seem appropriate to establish renovated institutional structures before the plans in progress yield positive results and citizen support for the government is revitalized. There are many who--with infinite naivete--think that the dissolution of all the intermediate bodies (unions, professional associations, etc.), combined with a shared material and spiritual development, can lead us to an almost theocratic form of government in which the good, the moral and the patriotic have absolute primacy. However, the truth is that immobility is hindering tests of modern formulas of political participation. These experiments would demonstrate their ability to consolidate the territory gained. It is no less serious that this vacuum could be filled by communism and some ecclesiastical sectors for the benefit of their petty interests and expectations. This shows the urgent need to implement the transitional stage which would end the emergency and impede the growth of a partisan shoot that could become the monster of tomorrow. This has happened in other countries and could well happen here.

Channeling of Debate Needed

Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 28 Oct 79 p 2

[Article by Juan de Dios Carmona: "Politicians or No Politicians"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Recently, the need for a political debate especially related to future Chilean political institutions has been presented.

Some people frown at this prospect, alleging that "we are fine as we are." They say that only a few people want to return to the small world of partisan politics, a prelude to elections. This is one way of evaluating things by those who call themselves "apolitical."

Let us analyze that. Are we fine as we are or will it be better if Chileans are given the chance to express opinions about the institutional future of the country?

Under our present institutions, the executive branch is based fundamentally on the president of the republic. The legislative and constitutional branches are based on the military junta. The judicial branch has remained the same and has had all the appropriate guarantees for its generation, immovability and independence.

The judicial branch has never intervened in the political debate. The government and the constitutional branch are abstaining from intervening in the debate on new political institutions because they are responsible for the conduct of the process of democratic institutionalization and because the draft constitution is under study.

The Armed Forces have been very careful to retain their nonpoliticalization and the government has been very clear about that. The commanders in chief only inform their subordinates on the actions of the military government without getting into political discussions. In this way, the unity, prestige and professionalism of the military institutions have been preserved.

To complete the government chart, it can be verified that the chief of state has not sponsored or permitted a party or organization to be formed to support the military government or to support himself. For that reason, he receives the greatest respect from the people.

Looking at the matter from the other side of the coin, the ban on political parties that has been imposed to confront the crisis that Chile has had to overcome meant the formal absence of partisan organizations in the political debate. The Chilean people have agreed that criticism from political organizations was not needed because,

with a /necessary/ government and without other alternatives, it was indispensable to let it act to confront the very serious situation in which the Popular Unity left the country.

It is said that nature abhors a vacuum. The mentioned circumstances and the sincerity of the military government in advancing the process of political normalization led to the promotion of a political debate by sectors which should not have been involved. In the first place, the use of different cases presented in the courts of justice seemed to formulate political criticism and supervision at those levels which could not be formulated in any other way. This involves the serious risk of eroding the prestige and independence of the judicial branch which is one of the bases on which the democratic institutionality rests.

Later, the formulation of political criticism was refined by certain ecclesiastical sectors and some union leaders. That can lead to denaturalization of the political process in detriment to the country, its future democracy and the military government itself. Political criticism in the hands of those sectors is difficult to confront and channel. The advantages of these positions are obvious. They believe they can have the "give without the take." It has even been said, to justify the already concrete intervention of ecclesiastical sectors in political criticism, that "if politics follows the principles of the gospel, the church will support it. Otherwise, it will denounce it." This statement seems inspired by the Ayatollah Khomeini and can be dangerous for the church and the government. What other government in the world has been judged this way? What government can weather an exclusively religious test?

On the other hand, the formulation of the political objective to achieve the complete democratic institutionalization of Chile and the study of the draft constitution /require/, rather than an opening-- if you do not like that word--/a natural channeling of the debate on the future political institutionalization of Chile/. This "natural" channel would mean movement of the debate toward sectors that show interest in public affairs, expressly including people who might have been involved in democratic partisan activities. The expression of opinions, their consideration and the participation of people, sectors or organizations with previous experience /can mean contributions that benefit the country, its democracy and its security/.

This does not mean advocating the reconstitution of the old party system. In the first place, those who destroyed our democracy and continue advocating totalitarian ideas cannot participate.

Also the political-institutional debate cannot remain tied to ominous "directives," "orders" or "instructions" given a priori by the former

political parties even though they claim to be democratic. If the contribution to that debate is to be fruitful, it must be done /with complete freedom/. The party system cannot try to again monopolize public opinion. Parodying what Clemenceau said about war, we believe that, at this stage in Chile, "politics is too important to leave to partisan politicians."

Finally, it seems logical and appropriate to national interests for the currents of opinion or the party channels to grow out as a /consequence/ of the new Chilean reality and its new institutionalization. The parties can only be organized based on the conditions indicated by the new constitution and not before.

The possibility of a rational political debate, duly integrated and essentially free, can produce the basic consensus that is needed and be the most effective instrument to guarantee the institutional future of our country.

7717

CSO: 3010

TURBAY: COMMUNIST JUDGES WOULD BE A DANGER

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Oct 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] Armero, 13 October--President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala stated here today that it would be impossible for parties other than the Liberal and Conservative to hold positions in the Supreme Court of Justice and the State Council; while at the same time declaring that he was not convinced that allowing the communists to participate in the justice system was a requirement of democracy, but rather a danger that would permit them to continue becoming stronger and more powerful.

The head of state spoke before a crowd gathered in the locality of Armero, where he announced that his government would be investing \$2 billion in public works and electrification for Tolima.

The chief executive also announced full guarantees for the political parties in the electoral contest that is approaching, stressing the importance of the major reforms in which the government is engaged, and emphasizing the spirit of democracy as a means of consolidating peace in the nation.

Commenting on the formation of the justice system, President Turbay Ayala said: "Speaking simply, and so as not to leave one of the statements that some have made regarding the formation of the justice system unanswered, I know what might happen, just as in the plebiscite of 1957, which was confirmed in the legislative act of 1968: it would be impossible for parties other than the Liberal and Conservative to enter the Supreme Court and the State Council. I ask you: what are those other parties that exist in Colombia? I know about the traditional parties, and I know about the Communist Party. And if what is desired is that we give positions in the justice system, in the Supreme Court, to the Communist Party which does not share our ideas or our opinions, I state definitively that I am not convinced that this is a requirement of democracy, but rather a danger that would permit it to continue to become stronger and more powerful."

The head of state remarked subsequently: "But, furthermore, the argument is specious. Proportionality in the executive branch took place according to the same theory, but rightly so in this case, and I ask you: Is it because

this barrier has disappeared that people from parties other than the Liberal or Conservative have entered or have been called to the cabinet? Are there communists who have benefited from that situation? On the contrary, the government has been acting with a Liberal majority in the cabinet, headed by a Liberal president, but also with the cooperation of the Conservative Party in the proportion to which it was entitled by its votes at the polls."

2909

CSO: 3010

MINISTERS DEFEND SECURITY STATUTE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Oct 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] Last night, the minister of government, German Zea Hernandez, told the Senate that 90 percent of what is claimed concerning alleged torture is not true.

He added that, in this connection, the government has attempted to investigate all the charges that it has received, and has not concealed anything at all.

The minister of justice, Hugo Escobar Sierra, for his part, backed Zea Hernandez' statement to the effect that the government has acted with the most complete respect for the Constitution and the laws in implementing the Security Statute.

"We have a perfectly clear conscience," added Escobar Sierra, but he warned, like Zea Hernandez, that the executive branch would remain unperturbed in its intention of guaranteeing Colombians peace and security.

Meanwhile, the minister of defense, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, emphatically repudiated the charges that the military forces are torturing those accused of subversive activities, and stressed that, nowadays, in Colombia, "it is a mark of social distinction and personal courage to attack the military institution."

He added: "It is something considered 'in' to assume such a position."

Camacho Leyva requested of Colombians a more fair and considerate treatment for the military forces, pointing out that they constitute the backing for the democratic institutions and are carrying a great responsibility on their shoulders.

The three ministers spoke at a plenary session which lasted for 6 hours, beginning at 1700 hours, on the occasion of a debate sponsored by the Conservative senator from Antioquia, J. Emilio Valderrama, regarding martial law, the implementation of the Security Statute and the constitutional ruling (Article

120) relating to participation in the government by the party ranking second in votes in the presidential elections.

Charges

Valderrama, who spoke in a vehement but respectful tone to the government representatives, came out in favor of the repeal of Article 120 by virtue of an agreement between the two traditional parties. He claimed that torture is being used in Colombia systematically, condemned the excessive power of the military penal courts and requested the adoption of the opposition statute, so that the organizations opposed to the present system of government would have leeway for action and could become genuine alternatives for power.

In his reply, Minister Zea Hernandez forcefully denied Valderrama's charges in particular, maintaining that, if it were true that what the latter had charged was occurring in Colombia, "neither President Turbay nor we ministers would deserve anything but being expelled from the country as traitors to the nation."

He added: "I repudiate those statements as a minister, as a Colombian and as a Liberal, because they are totally dissociated from reality."

He said that few governments have attempted, as the present one has, to solve the country's economic and social problems, which are long-standing; but that, unfortunately, it has had to battle from the beginning of its administration against a subversive onslaught seldom experienced in the country.

Zea Hernandez stated that this subversive offensive has had widespread ramifications in both the rural and urban areas, and that its main incidents were the murder of former Minister Pardo Buelvas and the theft of weapons in the Northern Canton of Bogota.

He asked: "If we had not acted as we did, where would Colombian democracy be today? Would the president be in the palace, and would we be here listening to diatribes against the government?"

He said that if history acknowledges anything for the Turbay Ayala government, it will be the force with which it managed to defend the democratic institutions.

After pointing out that Colombia is a democracy of which its inhabitants should be proud, Zea Hernandez admitted to some of the charges made by Valderrama and the opposition to the effect that excesses might have occurred in the enforcement of the Security Statute, but added that 90 percent of what has been claimed about alleged torture is not true.

He said: "We have tried to investigate everything, and we have not tried to cover up anything."

He remarked that Colombians can be certain that democracy will not decline during this administration and that all political movements will be free to act and to say what they think, even if it is as far removed from reality as Valderrama's statements.

In connection with Article 120, he gave a reminder that President Turbay has warned the country that his government will not promote any proposal aimed at repealing it, and that if such an endeavor is considered fitting, it would be incumbent on the Liberal and Conservative political leaders.

He said that, furthermore, the government has not observed to date the existence of a strong, steadfast political movement in the Liberal or Conservative camp aimed at attaining such a goal.

Zea Hernandez said that if a Liberal-Conservative accord on this matter should occur, the government would view it with pleasure, because that type of bipartisan agreement has brought good results since the period of the National Front, just as is happening now, with the cooperation being offered by the Conservatives to the Turbay Ayala government.

Escobar Sierra

In his remarks, Escobar Sierra, in turn, said that he felt "distressed and deeply hurt in my conscience as a democrat," by the charges hurled against the government by Valderrama.

He claimed that if the latter's statements were to be accepted, it would have to be thought that Colombians were not living in a democracy, but rather in an "abominable dictatorship, in which the people, the workers and the students were persecuted, and people were tortured and had their lives taken."

He said that Valderrama's claims were "abusive and irresponsible," and that the silence of certain senators in attendance toward them attested to the crisis among the Colombian political element.

Escobar Sierra added that this was in contrast to the freedom and guarantees enjoyed by Valderrama and his friends for touring the country overtly in political activity.

He commented: "And that is why my conscience as a patriot has reacted as it has today, when he tries to make us appear as a barbarous nation."

He said that he was saddened to see how positions such as those assumed by Valderrama have been supporting the disguised subversives.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister of justice stated that Valderrama was not in a position to prove any of the charges concerning torture or abuses committed by the military that he made in his speech.

Moreover, he observed, Valderrama is acting like an independent Conservative in making his "unjust, reckless charges" against the government, which do not have any backing from the national political leaders of his party.

Escobar Sierra guaranteed Valderrama that he could be sure that his considerable bureaucratic contingent in the government of Antioquia and Medellin would not be reduced by the government after the debate.

The minister, who also discussed in detail charges made by Senators Luis Carlos Galan and Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, asked whether, with this type of debate, there was not a possible hint of the likelihood of a hypothetical military coup.

He said that these were "stupid, misguided" insinuations, and that he repudiated them forcefully.

Escobar Sierra flatly rejected Valderrama's claim that there was a military torture chamber in the San Cristobal district of Bogota.

He added that the senator from Antioquia had acted irresponsibly in making such a serious accusation without even being familiar with the aforementioned military installation and the places in which the individuals accused of subversive acts are kept.

He said: "I believe that Dr Valderrama has made a mistake in a serious matter."

Escobar Sierra also described Valderrama's remarks as a diatribe against the Armed Forces, and said that he had been unfair to President Turbay, in his attempt to claim that the latter is running a government in Colombia similar to the one headed by the ousted dictator, Somoza, in Nicaragua.

The high-ranking official who, in his lengthy address, declared that decrees issued during previous administrations, especially in that of Pastrana Borrero, in which Galan was a minister, were more repressive than those issued now; and he stressed the fact that this administration has adhered completely to the Constitution and the laws.

In the latter respect, he made special mention of the way in which Article 128 of the Constitution has been implemented, an article which authorizes the government to order the arrest of individuals who are presumably implicated in subversive activities.

He said that the decrees of the Pastrana period authorized the closing of universities by decree, the dismissal and cancellation of the contracts of university professors, press censorship and a ban forbidding certain persons to leave their place of residence without prior official permission, something which has not happened under the present government.

Camacho Leyva

After Escobar Sierra concluded his remarks, noting that "we are faced with a situation of legitimate defense of the state," and that "we shall continue unperturbed, providing for the defense of the institutions," his colleague in the Defense Ministry, Camacho Leyva, spoke.

2909

CSO: 3010

MINISTER ADMITS M-19 INFILTRATED BINCI

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 21 Oct 79 Sec A pp 1, 17

[Text] The minister of defense, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, admitted tacitly yesterday that the subversive "M-19" organization succeeded in infiltrating the military intelligence service; but noted that the Armed Forces are provided with the essential mechanisms for preventing such a thing from happening again.

As this newspaper reported at length in its previous edition, that insurgent group announced in its latest bulletin the "execution" of the agrarian leader, Victor Felix Pastrana Rojas, because it had discovered that he was collaborating with the military intelligence service.

The details on the "betrayal," as they described Pastrana's behavior, were obtained by Fabio Monje Benavides, who had managed to infiltrate the "Intelligence and Counterintelligence Battalion" (BINCI), an entity which is responsible for obtaining and evaluating information on the activities of the guerrilla groups, so as later to devise plans and carry out the pertinent operations.

The statement made by Gen Camacho Leyva, admitting the M-19 infiltration, was given to reporter Carlos Alcazar, of the "Caracol" radio network. Upon being asked whether he considered what had happened serious, he replied:

"It could involve a serious problem, but we can control it."

Espionage and Counterespionage

As we stated yesterday, this case comprised a classic episode of espionage and counterespionage; because the Army had also succeeded in infiltrating into the ranks of the M-19 Victor Felix Pastrana, whose revolutionary sincerity appeared impossible for his comrades to doubt, owing to his extensive accoutrements as a rebel.

The reports which Fabio Monje Benavides obtained in his capacity as a "spy" inside the BINCI, which he promptly sent to the commanders of the "Caqueta

Regional" unit of M-19, were used as a kind of proof for "judging" Pastrana Rojas and ordering him to be shot.

It is almost certain that, if Fabio Monje had not infiltrated the aforementioned military unit, the supreme leader of the M-19, physician and former congressman Carlos Toledo Plata, would have fallen into the hands of the authorities; because he was one of the main targets being pursued. It is estimated that this was quite likely, in view of the reputation that Pastrana Rojas enjoyed within that group; something which enabled him to make contact with its ringleaders.

As everyone knows, Fabio Monte sought asylum last September in the Costa Rican Embassy, together with his brothers, Armando, Ramon and Jose Gabriel, who are also affiliated with the M-19, according to information from the bulletin in question.

Yesterday, to be exact, the last members of the Monje family still remaining in the country left for San Jose. Those traveling yesterday were Carmen Fanny Alvarado de Monje, Ramon's wife, who left national territory on an S.W. flight which departed at 0700 hours from Bogota, and which was scheduled to stop in San Andres. The woman was traveling with her children, Juan Carlos, aged 12; Jimmy Robert, 11; Edgar, 10; Milton Jorge, 7; and Ramon Ernesto, 1 year of age.

Thus, the number of members of this family to leave Colombia for the reason given reached 16.

Courts-Martial Begin

In his statements yesterday, Minister Canacho said that, next week, the resolutions for the convocation of verbal courts-martial against the M-19, the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] would be made public.

The official said that he had been told this during the last conversation that he had with the commander of the Military Institutes Brigade, Brig Gen Miguel Vega Uribe.

He also remarked that there is no valid reason to expect the verdict of the Supreme Court of Justice on the applicability or non-applicability of Decree 2482, which orders the elimination of the reading of records in courts martial with preliminary investigations.

Canacho said the courts martial can begin in the usual manner, and that if the Supreme Court declares the decree in question applicable, it may proceed to apply its terms, that is, those suspending the reading of the huge documentation.

The resolutions to convoke the three very large courts martial were signed a few days ago by General Vega, but their contents were not made public.

awaiting the Supreme Court's decision. However, it is thought that this represents an unjustified delay, because, in the end, that entity could declare the ruling on public order unconstitutional.

Two of the recent decisions made with regard to these proceedings, which have not been made public either, related to an exhaustive review, case by case, of the individuals whose names were included in the resolutions on convocation, so that only those against whom there are concrete, consistent charges will appear at the courts-martial. The other decision was that of not waiting for the verdict of the Supreme Court, as had been anticipated at the outset.

As this newspaper reported in its edition of 12 October, 312 individuals from M-19, 40 from FARC and 30 from EPL were originally included in the resolutions on convocation. Col Rafael Martin was named to preside at the first trial, Col Rudy Castellanos Perilla was designated for that of the FARC, and Col Bernardo Peralta was assigned to that of the EPL.

Moreover, it was confirmed that the work to construct latrines and to install the storage facilities to be used for the field tents under which it is planned to try those accused of belonging to M-19 is still under way.

Subversive Alliance in Santander

While the plans for holding these huge-scale trials for insurrection are in progress in Bogota, a report has arrived from Santander that the M-19, FARC and National Liberation Army have joined together to continue their conflict with the authorities, because of the setbacks suffered by all those groups during the past few weeks.

The areas in which these groups are operating have been completely demarcated, because guerrilla fighters are not in the habit of interfering in the action of others.

With regard to the meeting at which it was agreed to form a "common front of resistance," it was claimed that former congressman Carlos Toledo Plata participated therein.

Freedom for Vasquez

As for the status of attorney Alvaro Vasquez del Real, member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party, who was supposed to be tried along with those accused of belonging to the FARC, the penal proceedings against him were transferred to the 12th Superior Court, headed by Dr Jose Vicente Romero.

As we reported at the time, this occurred as a result of a decision of the Disciplinary Court, which issued a verdict to the effect that the actions ascribed to Vasquez Real took place when martial law did not prevail in the country, and that, therefore, the matter comes within the jurisdiction of the common courts.

As soon as the records reached the 12th Superior Court, the attorney and senator, Humberto Criales de la Rosa, requested the immediate release of the communist leader, claiming as grounds for this that he had served the time in prison that would have been given him as a penalty if he had been found guilty. He also maintained that the deadline set for calling him to trial had expired, and that, furthermore, nullification of the crime should be declared in the case in question.

The proceedings were turned over to the office of the prosecutor, Dr Jose Humberto Velasquez, for a determination as to whether or not the release is in order.

2909

CSO: 3010

LEADER OF ELN, M-19 CAPTURED WITH EVIDENCE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Oct 79 Sec B p 8

[Text] Bucaramanga, 24 October--The commander of the Fifth Brigade, Gen Rafael Zamudio Molina, confirmed here the arrest of Elias Awad Maestre, who served for several years as head of an ELN [National Liberation Army] faction and during recent months was a militant in the M-19.

Awad Maestre was captured in the municipality of Aguachica, in Cesar Department, and brought to this city, where he is at the orders of judge 109 of military penal proceedings, Elberto Mercado.

An account of the report was released yesterday in Bogota, but the Fifth Brigade did not confirm the incident until this Wednesday.

Awad Maestre, together with German Sarmiento, alias "Ivan," headed a group of the so-called National Liberation Army which was in confrontation with the then supreme chief of this subversive organization.

He was originally arrested and tried in a verbal court martial held in the town of Socorro, and subsequently in the nation's capital.

Upon being released, he assumed the intellectual leadership of the group commanded by "Vidal" in the La Motilona mountain area; and he was the only one who remained after the escape of Vasquez Castano abroad, taking the organization's funds with him.

Awad later practiced his profession in Aguachica, and in the nation's capital, having left the so-called ELN.

During the past few weeks, the state secret service obtained valuable information implicating Awad Maestre in an armed movement again.

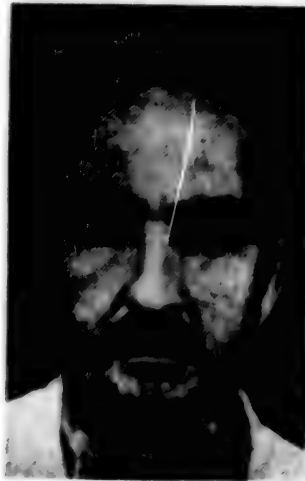
Now he was a member of the 19 April Movement, and was organizing the backup groups in the department of Cesar.

His capture took place yesterday in Aguachica, and he was found to have in his possession a large amount of subversive material and notes implicating

him in the M-19, which in turn will provide information to the authorities involved in the investigation being carried out by judges 100 and 109 of military proceedings, Tomas Paredes Amudia and Elberto Mercado.

Dr Awad Maestre's legal status will be resolved during the week, and it is anticipated that a writ for his detention will be issued, and that he will be tried in a verbal court martial in Bogota.

EL TIEMPO was told unofficially that other captures have taken place in Cesar Department.



Elias Awad Maestre, charged with being affiliated with the ELN, and, subsequently, with M-19.

2909

CSO: 3010

CAMACHO LEYVA: CCP FOMENTS SUBVERSION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Oct 79 Sec A p 1, Sec C p 6

[Text] Last night, in the Chamber of Representatives, the minister of defense, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, accused the Communist Party of fomenting subversion in the country; and, defending the Security Statute, he said that his only regret was that it could not be supplemented with provisions that are needed in it.

He underscored the Armed Forces' indomitable desire to defend the democratic institutions which have been formed with the efforts of both the military and civilians over more than 150 years of republican existence; adding: "We cannot be subject to the whim of dissidents, much less that of those who are importing foreign theories for the purpose of putting an end to everything that we Colombians want, are and will be."

Camacho Leyva spoke for over 3 hours last night at the Chamber's plenary session, to respond in a debate sponsored by the opposition group concerning the security measures and claims of possible torture.

The debate began last week and, during two lengthy sessions, Communist representatives vented harsh attacks on the Armed Forces, which they accused of excesses in the enforcement of the Statute, and against the defense minister himself. They also charged some instances of alleged torture of prisoners. Speaking on behalf of the opposition, among others, were Jose Cardona, Mario Montoya (the promoters of the debate), Gilberto Vieira and Alvaro Bernal Segura. Some congressmen from the two parties also spoke, making different complaints about certain incidents which have occurred in various sections of the country.

In his remarks, Minister Camacho Leyva commented at first on the questionnaire that had been submitted to him, and noted that it was devious because of the claims that it contained in an implicit, heterogeneous manner. He said: "How strange the vicissitudes of life, when the flowers that the military family, and the military family alone, placed on the recently opened graves of six soldiers and a petty officer who just died, like so many others, on this occasion in the Puerto Berrio area, have not yet withered, those who are interested in subversion in the country have tried to deviate the debate,

and have attempted to demonstrate that the government and the Armed Forces are persecuting upright people for the sole reason that they do not think in a democratic fashion."

He added that this new sacrifice on the part of soldiers of the republic attests to the indomitable desire of the armed institution to defend the democratic institutions which have been formed in more than 150 years of republican existence.

He maintained that the questionnaire submitted to him "attacked the good faith of the Chamber of Representatives," because, he said, it contained countless suspicions, adding: "I am sure that if this body had paid careful attention at the time when it was submitted, the summons could not have been made in the manner in which it was made."

The defense minister also discussed the death of Dario Arango, vice-chairman of the Puerto Berrio town council, claiming that his sudden demise had been accompanied by countless suspicions, "for the purpose of bringing further charges against the government and the Armed Forces. And, worst of all, and this is one of the things that we must regret, some representatives who claim to be friends of the government, perhaps because of lack of information or perhaps to take advantage of the opportunity during this pre-election period, have joined those from the Communist Party, that is to say, those who are fostering subversion in the country, for the purpose of making groundless accusations as well."

He remarked that Mr Dario Arango's death was being made to appear as a kind of "cause celebre," having an impact on the Chamber. He then noted: "The forensic physicians made the legal autopsy, and concluded by stating that it was a case of first and second degree arteriosclerosis, and that, from the previous findings, they were of the opinion that the death of the late Dario Arango was due to cardiac arrest, the etiology of which will be established from the results of the microscopic examinations."

He criticized the Communist representative, Jose Cardona Hoyos (one of the summoners), and claimed that, in his remarks, "he was aggressive and aggressive without precedent, just as the subversives are aggressive now, simply because the government has chosen to make full use of the legal expedients that the republic possesses, and also to make full use of the institution, primarily the military institution, for the purpose of defending the democratic institutions, included among which is this august body which, I am sure, could not be so full if the military forces had not controlled the electoral debate to perfection, and if the same military forces were not, at this very moment, in fields and on pavements exercising vigilance, to prevent the friends of disorder from attacking the people's good faith and also from perpetrating atrocious crimes."

Democratic Army

In his address, General Camacho Leyva mentioned each one of the charges made by the promoters of the debate and, among others, he discussed a statement

made by Jose Cardona, to the effect that "we must wait until a part of the Army is democratic." The minister commented:

"Representative Cardona was mistaken in this as well. I can assure you that, on the average and in general, all of the military forces are deeply democratic; they are the very institutions which are shedding their blood along the length and breadth of the country to maintain those democratic institutions. And if this were not the case, then we might wonder who is supporting the democratic institutions against subversion."

The Statute

He subsequently discussed the topic of the Security Statute, against which various attacks were leveled. On this subject, the minister declared:

"The highly publicized Security Statute is somewhat inconvenient, but I say that it is somewhat inconvenient for those who are in the habit of at least viewing the commission of certain crimes with a certain amount of sympathy. It so happens that, in this regard, there has been an attempt to set up a sympathetic situation. There has been an attempt to establish the father of the child, as Dr Cardona said; and the paternity of the Statute is unquestionably attributable to General Camacho Leyva. And, for that purpose, the other actor in the drama, representative Vieira, read the records which ascribed the issuance of the Security Statute to General Camacho Leyva."

But, he said, "Unfortunately, that is not true." He added: "I would like to have been the entire author of the Security Statute; I was only a coauthor. I signed it. I am certain that the country needs it, and so long as it depends on me, it will have to be complied with while it is in effect. Therefore, we need not look at General Camacho to find out whether he makes a denial or becomes worried that the legal provisions which he may have written might cause him to be ashamed or anxious. I assume my responsibility, and my only regret is that the Statute could not be supplemented with provisions that are needed in it as well."

He made another defense of the Statute, declaring that he did not know whether the people discussing it (the Statute) are opposed to punishment for kidnapping, punishment for insurrection, punishment for association to commit crime or punishment for murder through upsets to public order. He gave a reminder that the Supreme Court of Justice had recently declared the constitutionality of the Statute.

He disclosed that, during the 1 year when the Security Statute was in effect, 1,633 penalties were imposed in the country, making (as he put it) an average of 4.4 persons per day.

He also discussed the charges of alleged torture, noting that it is very easy to put forth rash accusations in this regard. He said that the Armed Forces are dutybound to keep the institution as unsullied as it has been kept during

all these years. "And we cannot give the subversives the satisfaction of putting an end to the career of a member of the military who has had to act with fortitude, leveling charges against him to please them. We back the measures taken by our subordinates provided they do not violate the law; because we cannot end their careers through the mere act of accusing them."

He added: "I have noticed that there has been a definite campaign in this respect, and that it has been advised in books and pamphlets. And it has increased since the subversives were bold enough to steal some weapons from the storage facilities of the Armed Forces themselves."



The photos catch various expressions of the defense minister, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho, during his lengthy address last night in the Chamber, in which he refuted attacks that had been made against the government and the Armed Forces by the Communist congressional faction.



Holding documents, the minister of defense, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, refuted the charges which had been brought concerning the nation's security.

2909

CSO: 3010

GENERAL FORERO: COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IS SPREADING

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 31 Oct 79 Sec A p 10

[Text] Starting next Monday, the commanders of the armies of 16 American nations will meet in Bogota to discuss matters of mutual concern to their reason for existing.

Some of the topics that will be analyzed and discussed on this occasion were disclosed yesterday afternoon by Gen Jose Gonzalo Forero 'elgadillo, commander of the Colombian Army, who is acting in the capacity of host for this reason.

This 13th Conference of American Army Commanders will be opened next Monday by the president of the republic, Dr Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, who will deliver an address relating to the importance of this meeting to America; and he will also discuss the situation confronting the country as a result of the guerrilla action.

The dialog among the military commanders will be concluded next Saturday, at a ceremony which will take place at the Military Cadet School.

Cuba and Nicaragua Missing

During the course of the press conference, General Forero stated that Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador would not be taking part in the meeting. With regard to the West Indian island, he said that an invitation had not been tendered it, inasmuch as this country is not a member of the Organization of American States.

As for Nicaragua, he remarked that it had been invited last February, but that the present rulers did not confirm its attendance, and for this reason it would be unable to take part in the discussions. In the event that the Nicaraguans decide to come at the last moment, they may participate only as observers.

Insofar as El Salvador is concerned, he reported that the government of that nation had confirmed its attendance, but that last minute obstacles precluded its presence here.

Forero Delgadillo stated that the First Conference of Commanders took place in 1960, and the 12th, that is, the latest one, was held in Nicaragua in 1977, on which occasion Colombia was chosen as the site of the 13th Conference.

Nicaragua's failure to attend is explained by the fact that its present government is of authentic revolutionary origin, and is comprised of members of the "Sandinist Liberation Front," a guerrilla group which fought against the dictator, Anastasio Somoza, until it defeated him. It is thought that the Nicaraguans could not share the views of the other regular armies, whose fundamental goal is to exchange opinions for the purpose of combating the guerrilla movements in Central and South America.

The events in Nicaragua will surely be a subject for analysis on the part of the military commanders, as will the repercussions that these political and military incidents may have on the Central American nations.

General Forero Delgadillo said that, this weekend, the commanders from the following countries would be arriving in Bogota, with their respective delegations: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Uruguay.

Three Fundamental Purposes

The military chief said that the fundamental purpose of this conference is to seek the means of intensifying insofar as possible the bonds of understanding and affection among the various armies on the continent.

He said: "During this meeting, a study will be made of problems of mutual concern, such as those associated with the defense of the continent and the battle against communist subversion."

He noted that the official reception for the visiting military personnel would take place on Monday, at the Military Cadet School, with a parade of the troops and the raising of the flags of the various countries represented at the 13th Conference. On this same occasion, the delegates will deliver their official greetings to the minister of defense, Gen Luis Carlos Canache Leyva, as well as to the commander of the military forces. In the afternoon, President Turbay Ayala will open the conference at the Military Officers Club in Puente Aranda.

General Forero offered all his cooperation to enable the newsmen from the various media to cover the event in its entirety, although he pointed out that the topics would be discussed by the commanders in privacy.

Also present at the press conference were Brig Gen Carlos Guerrero Paz, the general secretary of the Ministry of Defense; Col Rafael Padilla, chief of information and press in the same Ministry; and Capt Adolfo Valle Berrio, the Army's chief of public relations, and the officer in charge of everything related to the invitation of the representatives of the various news media.

'Satisfied With Antigerrilla Battle'

In a cordial though obviously evasive manner, General Forero agreed to answer the questions put to him by newsmen on topics of the most variegated types, but all associated with the problems inherent in the guerrillas. The editor of this newspaper asked his opinion of the results accrued by the Army in this area, and he replied:

"This subject will be discussed and analyzed during the conference. The delegation from Colombia will submit this topic for the consideration of the attendees, using as a basis the experience that we have gained in that area, and the studies that have been carried out on the subject. I think that this has answered your question."

When we replied cordially that he still owed us an answer, because he had not expressed a concrete opinion, he added with a smile:

"Well then, I admit to you that, as commander of the Army, I am satisfied with the success that has been attained, proving that we have made considerable progress in this regard."

Inasmuch as the high-ranking official has stated repeatedly that "communist subversion" would be one of the main topics at the 13th Conference of Commanders, EL ESPECTADOR asked him what kind of evidence the Army had managed to obtain against the Communist Party, in view of the fact that several generals, including the defense minister, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho, and the commander of the military forces, Gen Jaime Sarmiento Sarmiento, have made identical statements. In answer to this question, he declared:

"It is the guerrilla organizations themselves which have taken it upon themselves to give such proof. It would be very advisable for you to read the manifestos of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]. They are the ones responsible for proclaiming that dependence."

One of the proposals which most attracted the attention of the newsmen attending the press conference, and which left them somewhat intrigued, since the matter was not sufficiently clarified, was that relating to a possible "complete education" of the military engaged in battling the guerrillas.

According to General Forero Delgadillo, at this conference there will be a discussion of matters relating to the adoption of "a system that would enable the professional military personnel to respond suitably, by giving them a clear rationale for this purpose."

It is thought that this is associated with the ideological issue, because the military personnel fighting the guerrillas are sufficiently trained from a physical standpoint to perform their task. Under these circumstances, the only thing needed for their complete education would be to give them orientation of an ideological nature.



The commander of the Army, Gen Jose Gonzalo Forero Delgadillo, holds his chin with his left hand, while gazing with interest at one of the newsmen asking him a question. On Monday, the high-ranking member of the military will meet with the army commanders of 16 American countries, with whom he will exchange views on the guerrilla activity in Central and South America.

2909

CSO: 3010

SENATE BIOGRAPHY TO BE PUBLISHED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 79 Sec E p 13

[Text] The president of the Senate, Hector Echeverri Correa, has ordered the publication of two books on the members of that body and the history of the national republican system.

The first one, which will be entitled "The Senate of Colombia," will contain photographs of each of the 112 leading senators and their biographies, "dealing mainly with their congressional activity, career, published reports, participation in debates, curriculum vitae, district and affiliation," according to instructions issued by Echeverri Correa to the secretary general of the Senate, Amauro Guerrero, in a note dated 1 October and printed in last Tuesday's "Congressional Record."

In the message, the head of the entity also told Guerrero that the publications could include, in addition, the acting senators, but "without a photograph."

He added: "For each one, an address in the province and in the capital may be given, as well as their works of an intellectual nature. In any event, the information on each one will be the same, necessitating a list of traits and qualities."

According to Echeverri Correa, the purpose of the second publication, entitled "Colombia, a Democratic State," will be "to set forth and explain the historical aspects of our republican system since 1810, the functions of the three branches of public administration and of the Electoral Court, the defense of liberties, the press, the Church and other social, political, economic and cultural institutions."

The congressman stated: "The publication must be fully illustrated. Hence, it would be feasible if the photographer, using the materials suited to this type of work, were to begin now taking photographs of the following sites: the Palaces of the Ministries, Narino, San Carlos, Justicia and Cardenalicio; and Bolivar and Nenez Plazas. He should also photograph the National Capitol, the Congress building, and the Mayor's and Governor's Office Buildings;

as well as the Cathedral, the Chapel and the 20 de Julio, Casa del Florero and Colonial Museums."

Echeverri Correa concluded his memorandum addressed to Guerrero by noting: "In order to select the photographs, it will be necessary to photograph all the historical sites, such as the Civic Center, the inside of the buildings and the activity in the institutions. A large portion of this publication will be in color; and therefore the negatives should be suitable for a good color distinction."

Consequently, the secretary of the Senate must request the pertinent price schedules and publishing designs from J.L. Arango, head of the "Sol y Luna" firm.

2909

CSO: 3010

MINISTER DISCUSSES PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PA152326 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Nov 79 PA

[Report by Jose Suarez]

[Text] The government today announced the basis of its petrochemical development plan that will be aimed primarily at ridding the country of its dependence on imported petroleum byproducts. While inaugurating the meeting of the Colombian Association of Plastic Industries [ACOPLASTICOS] in this capital, Economic Development Minister Gilberto Echeverry-Mejia said one of the main devices we have to achieve that goal is the petrochemical program in the Andean Group, which unfortunately is not yet progressing as expected. The minister said the recently created petrochemical studies fund has already conducted studies that will provide a list of priorities for the development of products assigned to Colombia in Decision No 91. The studies also indicate the need for a secure and adequate supply of raw materials needed for their production. He added that in order to do this the country must build facilities to produce enough benzene, toluene and [word indistinct] to meet national requirements and also allow for exports.

The minister said that with the implementation of these projects, the petrochemical industry would not need more than 4 percent of the crude produced in Colombia. This means the development of that industry would not increase the country's dependence on imported crude. On the contrary, he said, it will generate great benefits, because the production of textile fibers--which are now subject to price fluctuations and international demand--would be increased.

In his speech at the ACOPLASTICOS assembly, Echeverry-Mejia said new opportunities are appearing in Colombia. He was referring to the coal industry. He said coal reserves, which cannot be found in many oil-producing countries, have become a strategic factor in curbing oil price increases. However, this strategy will yield only medium-term results. This possibility undoubtedly awakens expectations in Colombia because of its coal reserves, he said. He also said Colombia is facing a challenge with the coal industry. However, the challenge is for the government as well as the private sector.

COLOMBIA

GOVERNMENT REPORTS NEW FUEL PRICE HIKES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 79 p 1-A, 15-A

[Article by Fernando Barrero]

[Text] The government reported yesterday that Colombians must get ready for new fuel price hikes and said that it is taking a look at ways to prevent serious impact from them.

[Simultaneously, reports from Iran yesterday said that Iran has begun to sell its petroleum on the free market at the unprecedented price of \$45 a barrel. The OPEC-authorized price is \$22.]

"If OPEC continues boosting its oil prices, we cannot remain divorced from reality," the minister of mines and energy, Alberto Vasquez Restrepo, stated yesterday.

The minister explained that despite the hikes ordered by the current administration, ECOPETROL's [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] finances are still shaky, adding that losses could reach a billion pesos this year.

He also reported that beginning in November gasoline imports would be cut from 25,000 to 5,000 barrels a day as a result of production starting up at the Barrancabermeja balancing plant, a project in which \$350 million (some 14 billion Colombian pesos) was invested.

Orito was 50 percent owned by the Texas Petroleum Company and 25 percent owned by the Del Rio Petroleum Company, and it produces 22,000 barrels of oil a day.

The minister also painted a positive picture of the energy situation for the first 8 months of 1979. He indicated that during this period fuel consumption rose by 2.8 percent in Colombia, which compares favorably with the 6 percent mark recorded at the same point in 1978.

With regard to ECOPETROL's oil output, Vasquez recalled that it had been dropping at between six and eight percent a year. During the first 8 months of this year, however, it not only did not decrease but it rose by one percent, thanks to the policy of adapting wells and stimulating development.

Although the rise was only one percent, it contrasts with the 6.5 percent drop in the total output of the oil companies operating in the country.

ECOPETROL produces more or less 47 percent of the petroleum extracted daily in Colombia; production is estimated today at 132,000 barrels a day.

Realistic Prices

As he asserted along with the head of planning, Eduardo Wiesner Duran, Vasquez Restrepo reminded the country that fuel prices would have to continue rising until they are realistic.

He acknowledged that a decision had not been made as to the mechanics that will be set in motion, and ways are under study to prevent future increases from having a serious impact on the lives of Colombians.

"We are working with restraint on that," Vasquez stated, adding: "Prices cannot be divorced from reality, because otherwise we would be faced with serious crises."

He explained that if OPEC continues its hikes, "we will have to follow suit." In recent days, oil producing countries like Kuwait, Algeria and Venezuela, and non-OPEC members like Mexico, have disclosed price hikes.

The organization will be meeting next December in Vienna, and a new general oil price increase is likely to emerge.

So far in the Turbay Ayala administration, the price of a gallon of gas has had to rise from 12 to 26 pesos as a result of the OPEC-ordered boosts.

Separately, the minister reported that progress is being made on all fronts of action to guarantee full oil supplies in 1980.

He emphasized that his Venezuelan colleague, Humberto Calderon Berti, is arriving in Bogota today and that the talks begun in Caracas in a bid for Venezuelan oil would continue with him.

Calderon Berti will be taking advantage of his stay in the country to deliver a lecture today at 1800 hours at the Hilton Hotel on Venezuela's petroleum policy.

Vasquez Restrepo indicated that contacts have also been made with Saudi Arabia and that on 12 November he would be traveling to Quito to meet with President Jaime Roldos.

"We are certain that the country is not going to have any supply problems," the high-level government official stated.

As far as ECOPETROL's financial situation is concerned, Vasquez indicated that at the beginning of the year estimates were that 1979 losses would total 5 billion.

"Thanks to efforts in the area of pricing and exports, the losses can be cut to about 1 billion this year," the minister reported.

The total is similar to the 948 million in losses in 1978.

In conclusion, he underscored the production startup at the balancing plant, which will cut gasoline imports by 20,000 barrels a day.

"In addition, the plant will enable us to optimize many production lines and to extract gasoline from fuel oil, for example," Vasquez observed.

President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala will be attending the inauguration of the plant.

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CSO: 3010

COLOMBIA

INTRA ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, PLANS

Government Announces Organizational Changes

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Nov 79 p 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Fernando Barrero]

[Text] Puerto Galeon (Magdalena), 2 November--The government disclosed here today that it would soon be implementing an ambitious and drastic nationwide plan to save fuel.

Constantino Portilla Bermudez, the director of the National Transport Institute (INTRA), explained that there are 14 basic points to the program, which can be summarized as follows:

1. A supply and demand study was done on all of the country's highways with an eye towards a total restructuring of schedules, so that they meet the real needs of transportation users.
2. Another study was begun on freezing the motor vehicle fleet.
3. Urban routes in all Colombian cities will be completely redesigned.
4. Special parking areas will be set up for taxis, and incentives will be given for their collective use.
5. Transportation companies will be overhauled so that they operate as an economic unit and abandon their current status as mere vehicle operators.
6. Transport companies will be required to hand in financial balance sheets within the first 90 days of each year.
7. Cargo transport companies will be asked to curtail their driving on Sundays and holidays in order to streamline the movement of intercity vehicles and private cars.

8. Studies will be intensified on utilizing alcohol as a fuel, based on the German and Brazilian experience. In 1980 in Brazil, 1.7 million cars will be powered by alcohol hydrate. This number of vehicles is four times the size of Bogota's fleet of cars.

9. Official administrative vehicles will be controlled, and cars used for tactical and vigilance activities will be assigned preference.

10. All vehicles will have to be periodically inspected, in particular all aspects of their carburetion systems.

11. The establishment of uninterrupted workdays is under study, so that there are only two major movements of vehicles and individuals in cities.

12. The program of staggered electronic traffic lights will be continued so as to facilitate the flow of vehicles.

13. A revision has begun of vehicle assembly policy, so that new vehicles manufactured in Colombia save as much fuel as possible.

14. A transportation terminals program will be set in motion in the country's main cities.

A major terminal is scheduled for Bogota that will cost about 1 billion pesos.

Portilla Bermudez, who spoke at the 14th Assembly of the National Busing Corporation, also indicated that his institute is doing intensive work on international highway transportation, and he recalled that under Decision 56 of the Andean Pact, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela are supposed to regulate the movement of their vehicles from one country to another.

He also announced that the process of decentralizing the institute's activities would begin soon, and thus carriers will be able to utilize the institute's services at the regional and local levels.

He said that as of 10 November the new national driver's license would be obtainable at any regional office and that labeling machines, printing machines, high quality lithographed vinyl cards and data transcribers have been acquired for this purpose.

He explained that the new license would be similar to a credit card.

INTRA Announces New Fuels Plan

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Nov 79 p 8-A

[Article by Fernando Barrero]

[Text] Puerto Galeon (Magdalena), 2 November--The government pledged here to completely reform INTRA, rejecting a transporters' request to do away with the institute.

Enrique Vargas Ramirez, the minister of public works and transportation, also announced that the government would submit a bill to Congress introducing major changes into the national traffic code.

Vargas Ramirez defended the national integration plan and the section dealing with transportation and public works, reiterating that investments in these fields would total around 94 million pesos in the 1979-1982 period.

He said that it is not yet known whether the government is going to boost gasoline prices or not at the end of the year, but he cautioned that Colombians cannot get used to the idea that the government is going to keep subsidizing fuels.

Vargas spoke at the opening ceremony of the 14th Assembly of the National Busing Corporation, which is being attended by 150 delegates from all over the country.

The minister said that INTRA cannot be eliminated, asking: "Why should we replace it?"

He conceded that it has had shortcomings during its first 10 years in operation, but he noted that it has also scored gains.

"We are prepared to correct any anomalies and any poor performance, and to do this we will need the participation of all Colombians," Vargas Ramirez noted.

He announced that the routes and schedules of all transportation systems would be rationalized, stating that this is one of the best ways to combat fuel waste.

Without specifically mentioning the incident, Vargas Ramirez alluded to the cargo carriers who protested recently in Cali over the minister's failure to attend their congress and who even called for his resignation.

"I do not have the gift of omnipresence and, therefore, I was unable to be present simultaneously at an international congress in Caracas and at a national event in Cali," the minister stated.

The president of the National Busing Corporation, Fruto Mejia, spoke at the ceremony also and told of threats and a crisis "in the transportation industry."

He criticized the bad intentions of INTRA middle management and asserted that the institute has not progressed in its 10 years of operations.

For his part, the executive director of association, Didio Emiro Pena, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, told the audience about various problems affecting transport.

He called for a total overhauling or a dismantling of INTRA and he reported a serious lack of authority in regulating the operations of transport companies and in settling the conflicts that arise among them.

He expressed support for the new INTRA director and trusted that under him many of the current administrative problems would be resolved.

He called for a radical change in the traffic code, stating that the current regulations are "old, diffuse and out-of-date." He noted that the congress, which is striving to regain prestige for it, has a great deal to do in this field.

He told of chaos in the various departmental and municipal branches, as well as at the traffic bureaus and inspection sites. He said that these offices operate as disconnected units, in response to what are often capricious impulses of governors and mayors who neither obey nor enforce nationwide regulations.

Pena asserted that the various state establishments are neither coordinated nor integrated nationwide and that each one issues regulations that are often at odds.

He explained that in the case of fares, the resolutions of the works minister are not enforced in departments and municipalities, because the governors and mayors trifle with such resolutions.

Pena cited another example, taxes on industry and commerce. Even though the Council of State itself declared their collection illegal in the case of transport companies, they are still being taken in by assemblies, councils and mayors.

In conclusion, he discussed the sector's economic and financial problems and said that the economic status of the companies is marked today by a serious lack of liquidity in their accounting balances and by the "threat of a slow, but imminent shutdown of bus service, due to the drastic and obligatory drying up of credit for their owners."

He called for energetic control of inputs prices and said that the transporters are "at the mercy of the insatiable voracity and speculation of the people who have the exclusive rights to produce or import these items."

On behalf of the National Busing Corporation, he also asked that Ford Motor Company be allowed into Colombia to regulate prices and quality in the transportation sector.

8743

CSO: 3010

BIGGEST PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Bogotá EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Oct 79 p 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Fernando Barrero]

[Text] The government has begun a gigantic public works and transportation program and through the branch minister, Enrique Vargas Ramirez, termed it the most ambitious one ever undertaken in Colombia.

The national integration program for the transport sector calls for new highways, improvement of existing ones, the refurbishing of railways, the restoration of waterways, the completion of airports and the outfitting of maritime terminals.

Investments will total the enormous sum of 94.24 billion pesos, of which 21.85 billion (23.2 percent) will come from foreign sources.

Minister Vargas Ramirez reported that the program was approved by the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) and he asserted that the scheduled funds are completely guaranteed.

The ambitious program will be carried out between 1979 and 1982 and is in keeping with the government's goals of decentralization, autonomy and integration.

During this period the airports in Bogota, Cartagena, Barranquilla and Rionegro (Antioquia) will be completed; 550 kilometers of new roads will be constructed; 1,150 kilometers of paved roads will be overhauled, and another 571 kilometers will be paved.

Among the highways that will be ready are: Bogota-Medellin, Bucaramanga-Santa Marta, Cali-Palmira, Zarzal-Armenia and many of the stretches in the roads from Medellin to Cali and from Bogota to Cali.

Some 2,000 additional kilometers of local roads have been planned; new railway lines will be built, and major plans for port terminals will be undertaken.

The following are the objectives of the program:

--To provide the country with an efficient trunk system of highways, railways, airports, ports and navigable streams that will make possible economical communication among its various regions and help to facilitate foreign trade.

--To refurbish and restore major communication routes that are in poor condition because of a lack of maintenance.

--To promote greater decentralization in the planning, execution and upkeep of regional and local projects.

--To contribute to the rationalization of petroleum products consumption through measures in the areas of infrastructure, equipment and traffic regulation.

--To support the programs of the farm sector by spurring the construction of local roads.

--To encourage inter-modal transportation by rationalizing services and enhancing coordination among the various modes of transportation.

Minister Vargas Ramirez presented the program yesterday in Cartagena at the closing ceremony of the 22nd Congress of Public Works Engineering.

Goals

The minister reported that under this program, by 1982 330 kilometers of new roads will have been built, 1,350 kilometers of main roads will have been rebuilt; 1,150 kilometers of paved roads will have been restored, and 571 kilometers of national and regional roads will have been paved.

Among the projects that will be completed, he stressed the following: Bogota-Medellin; Bucaramanga-Santa Marta; Cali-Palmira; Villavicencio-Puerto Lopez; Riosacha-San Juan del Cesar; Guaya-Palo de Letras; Puerto Rico-San Vicente; Puerto Olaya-Puerto Araujo-La Liza; Chiquinquira-Barbosa; Todo-Santa Cecilia; Pasto-Cano; Zarzal-Armenia; Bolivar-Amaga; Chinchina-La Felisa; the second highway to Facatativa, and the sections included in the initial refurbishing program for paved roads, including major sections of the Medellin-Cali and Bogota-Cali highways.

As a result of the investments, the main highway system will be 5.1 percent larger, with improvements in 26 percent of it.

From 1979 to 1982 construction will also begin on 12 additional projects, and work will start on the second stage of the paved roads restoration program. These undertakings will be completed after 1982.

Two thousand kilometers of local roads are scheduled to be built; railway investments will go to maintain and refurbish vast sections of the main lines and to train railway personnel, and work will begin on the Carare line.

With regard to navigable waterways, the Magdalena River and the Dique Canal will be restored through dredging, a signaling system and port refurbishing. Navigation and land and air transportation will be coordinated throughout the country.

The Bogota, Cartagena, Barranquilla and Rionegro (Antioquia) airports will be completed, projects that will enhance the level of service for 88 percent of international passengers and 67 percent of domestic travelers.

The second stage of the Air Navigation Plan will also be begun, and a major push will be given to the programs of the national territories, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.

Port investments will focus on the upkeep of piers, which are in a serious state of disrepair, and on infrastructure projects to meet foreseeable needs in the intermediate and short term.

Minister Vargas Ramirez said that particular emphasis would be attached to solutions for handling specialized cargo.

Investments

Investments will total 94.24 billion, 72.38 billion of which will be financed with domestic resources.

The following is the breakdown for this investment package:

Area	Amount (in billions)	Percent
Highway fund	60.097	63.8
Local roads	5.689	6.0
Navigable waterways	5.169	5.5
Railways	8.918	9.5
Ports	2.500	3.7
Airports	10.872	11.5
Total	94.247	100.0

These funds will, in turn, come from the following sources:

Source	Amount (in billions)	Percent
Gasoline tax	34.624	36.8
National Port	10.391	11.0
Domestic resources	13.208	14.0
Subtotal	58.224	61.8
Other resources	14.164	15.0
Foreign loans	21.858	23.2
Total	94.247	100.0

The funds in local currency will be financed with the gasoline tax, national budget allocations and domestic resources most of which will come from assessments for improvements and tolls and fees for aeronautical and ports services.

The gasoline tax will be used exclusively for highways, roads and navigable waterways.

This program worked out by National Planning, the Ministry of Mines, the ministry's decentralized institutes and Aeronautics was approved by CONPES on Friday. At the same time the decision was made:

--To more closely link foreign indebtedness authorizations and national budget allocations for predominantly regional projects with adequate complementary funds from the regions themselves.

--To reorganize and bolster the Assessments Fund in order to recover most of the highway construction investment through assessment taxes.

--To expand the toll collection system on the main highway network to generate funds for road maintenance.

--To maintain constant in real terms, to the extent possible, the share of the National Roads Fund in the fuel tax and the fees for services in civil aeronautics, railways and the Colombian Ports Enterprise.

--To speed up the studies in support of requests for foreign loans.

--To develop a mechanism that will insure a smooth flow of funds so that the program never grinds to a halt.

--To commission studies on mass transportation in the country's main cities and to seek financing sources for projects identified as priorities; along with this, to work out a suitable structure for urban transport companies, which would be directly responsible for running the systems.

Minister Vargas Ramirez also recalled in his speech that at the start of the current administration contracts for public works totaled about 4 billion pesos.

At present, awarded contracts and pending bids have boosted the figure to 14.6 billion, and at the close of the current administration's first 20 months, the overall figure will be 17.9 billion.

"This means that during this period the ministry's work offers will have more than quadrupled," Vargas Ramirez stated.

The minister underscored his ministry's endeavors to channel investments into public works and he noted that the executive branch has made major efforts to cover debts with ministry's contractors.

He reported that pursuant to a recent decree, the government is empowered to acknowledge readjustments due to delays in payment, and he disclosed that a bill would be introduced authorizing the ministry to pay out readjustments for delays in the past.

He announced that the government intends to insist on amending the contracting system and that it is considering securing a special \$10 million loan to finance the importation of heavy machinery for public works.

He repeated that efforts are also being made to organize a finance company for the engineering sector, such as the ones operating in Mexico or Brazil, and he said that the services of an international expert in banking have already been contracted for this purpose.

8243

CJO: 3010

BRIEFS

GUERRILLA GROUP LEADERSHIP--Bogota, 20 Nov (AFP)--The authorities disclosed today that the leadership of the Workers Self-Defense Movement (MAD), a Trotskyite guerrilla group disbanded by police here last week, was comprised of a single family. The police killed one MAD member and captured three others as they were robbing a bank in the northern sector of this capital. They had stolen \$7,500 in cash, but it was later recovered. According to military spokesmen, MAD is the organization responsible for assassinating former minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas in Bogota in September 1976. According to a report by the army here today, Hector Fabio Abadia Rey, Pardo Buelvas' assassin, was injured during the confrontation with police, and Edgardo Abadia Rey was killed. The police also captured two women: Adelaida Abadia Rey, wife of Alfredo Camelo Franco, a MAD ideologist who was sentenced to 32 years in prison by a verbal court martial; and Mariana Amaya Rey de Abadia. The dead guerrilla, as well as those who were captured, had been convicted in absentia by military courts and were being widely sought throughout the country. Hector Fabio Abadia Rey had been sentenced to 26 years in prison while the two women had been sentenced to 3 years imprisonment each for their participation in the Pardo Buelvas killing. [Text] [PA202251 Paris AFP in Spanish 1447 GMT 20 Nov 79 PA]

PERUVIAN M-19 MEMBER ARRESTED--Bogota, 20 Nov (AFP)--Jorge Luna Sanchez, an alleged Peruvian terrorist, has been captured by military authorities in Caqueta Department, southeastern Colombia, according to a military spokesman. The spokesman said Luna Sanchez was a member of the Marxist self-styled 19 April movement (M-19) and worked as an advisor for the group under the alias Alfonso Cortes Duarte. The Peruvian terrorist was captured along with two Colombian terrorists who will be tried in a verbal court-martial to take place in the next few days. The trial will be held at the 9th Brigade Headquarters in Neiva, capital of Huila Department. The defendants will be charged with kidnaping, extortion and armed robbery. [Text] [PA202130 Paris AFP in Spanish 1253 GMT 20 Nov 79 PA]

CSG: 3010

DEFICIENCIES, PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT FAILURES SURFACED

Marxist Philosophy Course Rejected

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 12 Oct 79 p 2

[Text] Student Dámasi Viera Morales discusses two issues with the Ministry of Education.

1. He explains that there is a certain amount of rejection by the students of such subjects as Marxist-Leninist philosophy, foundations of preparation, etc.. "And in my view," he adds, "one can only think that the classes are poorly motivated and there are shortcomings in technique." He says this is wrong because "knowing how basic and important the mastery of Marxism is, this situation should not prevail." He adds graphically that "tasks are taken like the meals forced on a child who does not want to eat," referring to "preparation of this meal so necessary to the child in a different way."

2. He recounts how a Camilito [student at a Camilo Cienfuegos military school] came up to him to say that he does not think that pre-university students who are not graduates of schools like his should be able to choose the specialties they want, since the Camilitos are boarding school students preparing in advance for military life, and should have more rights.

Ministry of Education Response

1. It is true that the situation described by this student can occur in subjects in the social sciences cycle, as in any other, if the teacher does not prepare properly to teach good classes.

In order to prevent such situations, the ministry is working to ensure mastery of the content by the teachers and department heads and their proper methodological training, which will enable them to teach interesting classes, to achieve the indispensable communication with the students and thus success in teaching these subjects.

2. The Camilo Cienfuegos military schools are the source of the future officers of the FAR (Revolutionary Armed Forces) and as such vocational centers with organization and available resources oriented toward developing

the interest of students in military specialties. These schools are the basic source of supply for the higher military training centers.

Therefore, the graduates of the other preuniversity institutes can opt for military studies if they want to be trained as command or engineering cadres in the different specialties taught in those centers. All of the young people in our country have the right to be trained for the defense of the revolution.

Independent of what has been said above the policy pursued when it comes to authorizing enrollment in a given specialty at a higher military training center is to give priority to graduates of the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational Schools because of the training and preparation they have had from the military and disciplinary points of view.

Unal Arango Andreau suggest that surveying schools be established again in conjunction with the preuniversity establishments, based on the need for technicians at such bodies as the ministries of construction, mines and geology, agriculture, etc. He adds that preuniversity students could take two or at most three additional subjects and on graduation, if they cannot or do not want to go on to the university, they could serve society as surveyors.

The Ministry of Education offers the following explanation:

"The training of surveyors on the secondary school level played a role at a given moment when the educational lag in the country did not allow specialization.

Currently the educational system has specialized polytechnical centers which have the material base of study needed for the training of technicians in accordance with the requirements of the consumer bodies (ministries of agriculture, mines and geology, etc.). A mere surveyor would not meet the current need.

In this connection, middle-level geodetic and cartographic technicians are currently being trained at five polytechnical centers and institutes.

"The curriculum for the training of these specialists was drafted together with the consumer bodies, with the advice of the guiding body for this activity in the country—the Cuban Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, and it combines the various needs in this field of technology."

People's Government Failures Aired

Revista JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 17 Oct 79 p 3

[Article by Lazaro Barredo Medina: "Despite the Successes of These Three Years Still Further Concern for Perfecting the People's Government Bodies is Needed"]

Text. Three years have passed since those memorable campaign stages between 16 and 17 October 1976 when our people participated majestically in the first revolutionary elections to choose their representatives to the Organs of People's Government.

Never in the history of the Western Hemisphere previously had there been such a democratic process as that, in which without petty political intentions and with electoral propaganda and compromise excluded, 95.2 percent of the adult population (over 16 years of age) went to the polls in this festive spirit to choose, by free vote, their representatives to the Organ of State Government.

Since then our representative institutions, as Lenin called these bodies, have been perfecting their functions in the search for the greater participation of the people in matters of state.

As the resolution of the Eighth Plenum of the Central Committee of the party stated: "The establishment of the Organs of People's Government and with it, the possibility of decentralizing many functions, entrusting them to the local levels, has made possible for the people greater participation in government administration, and understanding of the concerns and the needs of the people, the revelation of problems and situations unknown to the central institutions of the state, thus making it easier to meet many of the needs of the masses, in some cases with the masses themselves participating."

Despite the obvious success the establishment of these organs represents and the institutional role which they are playing to an ever more important extent as the highest state authority in their respective jurisdictions, the work of those comprising them to eliminate the shortcomings and inadequacies still persisting in their functioning must be increased.

At the last Local People's Government Office meeting with the presidents of the provincial assemblies, various shortcomings which are still working against the proper development of these institutions were set forth.

One of them is the fact that extensive formalism still dominates in the holding of the sessions of some assemblies, which proceed without due analysis or discussion on the part of the delegates, who sometimes remain passive, as if they were mere posers and not an essential part of the organ and fully jointly responsible for its decisions.

Moreover, there are still cases in which the problems submitted by the people at work review meetings in the municipalities or at delegates' offices become lost in the excessive volume of reports, orders and agreements typical of the operations of many assemblies, above all on the municipal level, as the result of improper interpretation of the regulatory norms.

Also at that meeting, the executive committees were urged as collective bodies to look deeper into the mechanisms by means of which they direct and

the work of the administrative offices, to ensure that to an ever greater extent they will function as collective bodies, differentiated in methods of operating from the administrative boards of directors.

Simultaneously, it is necessary on the individual level to ensure that the members represent the assemblies and the executive committees themselves to the administrative boards, rather than the reverse, along with improving and developing the methods of guidance and supervision, making better use of the work commissions to oversee the fulfillment of the decisions of the higher state bodies, the corresponding Local People's Government Organs, and, basically, to render more efficient service to our people.

The executive committee, it was stressed, should become the firmest support of the delegates in their work, with each of their members, working with the offices they serve, analyzing the situation set forth by the people, systematically checking on the work of these offices in finding solutions and seeing that the responses are free of bureaucratic formalism.

For another fact which still works against the proper functioning of the People's Government is the vicious practice well established in many administrative offices of dealing in terms of facile excuses instead of providing solutions to the problems from which the people suffer most, even within the framework of the current objective economic limitations.

The problems do not, however, obscure the achievements of our People's Government Organs in administration in these past three years, much less the meritorious work of the delegates who have represented the people in the two terms of government office.

At Comrade Fidel Castro said to the National Assembly: "It is not possible to underestimate the effort, the spirit of sacrifice, of the delegates.

"It is absolutely impossible," the commander in chief added, "to ignore the merit of a delegate. I say that the delegate is a hero, because he has to work eight hours, and then he must see to the voters, deal with matters, attend the assembly, make reports. And as we know that there are many problems, as someone said here, when it comes time for lunch or dinner or sleep, he is not even allowed to rest."

It is a known fact, as was established at the beginning of the year, that the People's Government Organs have won double merit, by working under such complicated and difficult conditions, and by nonetheless achieving successes such as those noted, and having taken the forward steps it has when the country has not been able to allocate sufficient resources to meet the needs the voters expressed.

This is without a doubt the main merit in the initial phase of the work of our People's Government Organs.

Nationwide Worker Discipline Studied

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 17 Oct 79 p 1

[Article by Vinas Alfonso]

[Text] Beginning tomorrow, Thursday, 18 October, and continuing until 15 February of next year, a general study will be pursued throughout the country on the problems in labor discipline, covering a large number of production and service centers.

A work group under the Labor and Social Security Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government has been appointed to carry out this study, and it will be supported by the municipal and provincial People's Government Organs, the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Workers] and other bodies.

The study corresponds to the discussions of this subject undertaken in the most recent period of sessions held last July by the National Assembly of the People's Government, during which our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, delivered an address dealing with the problems, violations of discipline and shortcomings in various labor sectors.

The basic purpose of the work which will be begun tomorrow is to clarify the shortcomings existing in connection with labor discipline, so that timely measures to eliminate them, or to contribute where necessary to perfecting the legislation in effect, can be adopted.

Swine Production Problems, Negligence

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 19 Oct 79 pp 4-7

[Article by Magda Martinez: "This is How They Prevent Me From Growing and Providing Meat"]

[Text] With what zeal and joy one sees them born. Something stirs inside and one almost tends to block from the mind the terrible fear that they will be lost and fail to become the 90 kilograms of meat so necessary to meet the growing demand of a population of more than nine million persons.

For it is nothing new to note the preference of Cubans for pork. There was a broad market for it in any form, but without any question, the favorite so-called native dish is roast pork, golden-brown and providing its own natural fats while the fire does its work.

However, doubt, like a noxious insect, pricks at the mind. Will they continue to grow? Will they become quality breeding or stud stock? Will they swell the figures of the breeding plan? Will they contribute to increasing

the volume of meat? So many questions! It is reasonable to ask, why so many doubts? It is very simple.

An old proverb speaks of "going for wool and coming out shorn." Something like that made this report possible, since the BOHEMIA reporters started out with a clearly defined goal, and in the course of their work, thanks to the critical and helpful attitude of the comrades who assisted us, we discovered a situation almost without precedence. However, we were physically present on the spot, and also, the pictures accompanying this report bear witness.

We arrived in Guira de Melena and immediately paid a visit to the Maderos Breeding Center. Its basic activity is the production of young sows for breeding. This is a newly established type of unit which has been operating eight months. We should stress this so that it will be remembered--eight months. The cost of the project was approximately a million pesos. We also ask that this figure--a million pesos--be remembered.

We entered the center's sanitary screening area. Our apologies--this feature requires explanation. All of the units in which work is done with animals must maintain strict control of possible infection or introduction of external agents. They must not be introduced from outside, nor taken up from the interior. The sanitary screening areas are located in the so-called "dirty zone," outside the interior farm boundaries, since the area inside is called the "clean zone." In these premises clothing is removed and placed in lockers provided for the purpose. One takes a shower and bath (using towels and slippers to prevent fungus). Then one goes to the next cubicle to don the proper garments and rubber boots. Then one is ready to proceed to the installation where the animals are.

I was saying that we went to the sanitary screening premises at Maderos. One of the ironies of life--it was nonfunctional. The varnished wood lockers, yellow tiles covering half the wall, dusty shower stalls--these served a purely decorative function. Why? It was explained to us that the necessary garments were lacking. But would a special design be needed? No, the enterprise said, simple flour sacks could be stitched together to solve the problem. The fact is no special fabric is required. But naturally, when the administration with the hygiene requirements in mind, tell the worker to bring a change of clothing of his own, he resists. That is not his responsibility, particularly when he only receives a clothing allowance once a year.

In these premises, we changed shoes, putting on heavy rubber boots (there are no sizes 42 or 43 any more), more like those worn by the clown Zapatito than anything else, and we began to feel a certain sympathy with these poor comrades who must trudge here and there with this burdensome weight for eight hours.

The visitors entered the first shed. In the cubicles, some very clean and healthy animals (Roberto's photographs show them) emitted the noise of a thousand demons. But just a minute--the first problem. They are not so healthy--those pigs have the mange! Wait a minute--this means that the norms established for combatting external parasites as set forth are not being fulfilled. And although the old song says that "it is bad taste to scratch the itch," this ailment is bothering the animals considerably. They scratch with the their teeth and cause wounds. Then they run against the wall and leave scabs carrying the transmitting agent. Then another animal wants to scratch himself in the same place, and becomes infected. But what is the situation with veterinary treatment?

After the herd has been bathed a lime water solution with one percent Asuntol (a chemical product from the dollar area) should be prepared and used to paint the premises to which the animals will be returned. As there is no lime, this is not being done, and the medication is going to waste. For the only way of eliminating mites, which cause mange, is by means of this method--whitewash and Asuntol. When there is mange in the unit, this formula should be applied monthly.

And what effect does this disease have on the herd? In total frustration, the animals stop eating in order to scratch. They live in constant discomfort. In young animals this causes such a state of weakness that they lose strength. And this provides a context in which they are susceptible to infection with other diseases. Or else this ailment becomes worse and the consequences are disastrous. The worst situation occurs at weaning (30 days after birth), because growth and development slows. The skin is seriously affected, and wherever the animal sees blood he bites himself. The result is that the weight gain declines and the animal must stay at the center longer to make up the lost weight.

We said at the beginning that the premises were built eight months ago. As the photographs show, this unit has the appearance of one 10 or 20 years old. The construction quality is very poor, although this is not true of the materials. The sheds are ... collapse, although the enterprise, using its own resources, has tried to repair them. Plans called for delivery of the premises in 1976, but this occurred two years later. For there were thousands of defects. The pipes were improperly installed, the crematorium was incomplete, the gratings were set too high and the animals could escape beneath them. The watering troughs leaked constantly. It is painful to see these poor animals. What is the problem? With their hooves unprotected, this constant humidity is a mortal enemy to the animals in the herd, since it leads to respiratory difficulties and related diseases (diarrhea, mange, etc.). It is required that disinfectant tanks be located between the sheds to avoid carrying contagion from one section to another. This protects the lives of the animals. Well, these tanks are notable here by their absence. The situation with welded joints is depressing. Almost all have broken apart.

In the shed for the boars, 33 of the 38 gratings are lying on the ground. The animals have pushed them over with the first thrust of their heads. They were not made to survive the onslaught of heavyweight boars. The boars have had to be relocated in the breeding areas (for the sows) which were built to accommodate animals for only seven days, whereas they must now live permanently there. This situation is such that in six months there will probably be no boars left alive. Under these cramped conditions they are constantly turning themselves and damaging their skulls. Naturally, they suffer, and the simple but inevitable mathematical calculation is in motion: less breeding means fewer births, fewer offspring, and finally less meat. In this way then, the reproductive life of quality stud stock is reduced.

The holding areas offer an equally dramatic picture. Of 160 stalls, 30 are in disrepair. Here too the temperature is unsuitable for the boars, too hot and humid, a cultural medium for disease.

The crematorium of the unit is of the most modern design and structure. How much could it cost? Its purpose is to destroy the corpse, viscera and afflicted body organs. The functioning of the crematorium is a necessity of high priority in order to maintain sanitation and disease control. The list of calamities continues. This magnificent structure does not function either. Burning is being done in an open field, with rubber. Because of this situation thousands of meetings, as the minutes prove, have been held. Meanwhile, the burner unit is missing. Other breeding units have them, but no one knows how to install them. Who will install it then? Since 1976, the famous burner unit has always been on the requisition list.

It would be very pertinent to ask why the construction was accepted like this! And we are told of the need for production which forced them to make a decision. For there is one reality beyond question: The people do not eat paper or requisitions, but food. And these are centers established specifically to meet needs. There were also references to a similar construction project in Santiago de Cuba, with all these shortcomings.

The quarantine area is supposed to be located outside the production unit. Since it is located inside, the center should be declared under quarantine and nothing allowed out. This situation was discussed at great length and new plans were drafted, with the situation corrected. However, the quarantine section was built inside.

On an elevation beyond the protected belt, earth work was done (how much does this simple activity cost?) in order to build the waste treatment plant. It does not function either, for lack of a motor. Initially, they "forgot" to produce it. Then this was done, but without separation of solids from liquids (organic fertilizer)--how much money might be saved if it were used in agriculture?--to avoid pollution of the environment. But since the plant was never fully completed, the waste is being dumped directly on the coast.

The walls of the plant are of concrete, for which a large volume of cement was needed, and they are being underutilized there. If one day the piper plays, not precisely to call the rats out of the city, but to stop them from coming, a dredge will be needed to clear the grass and dry mud which has accumulated unhindered in the well. The solemn promises do not matter, for the investments and resources involved continue to grow. There are other factors, such as the feeding of the animals, poor care and handling of the herd and the so-called subjective problems, which are also having a profound effect.

The subjective category includes the problem of clearing the perimeter belt which surrounds the unit. This area must be kept free of vegetation. If it is not, it will be a fabulous vector of disease.

The administrator was asked why it is not cleared and he answered: "There is only one worker to take care of three units. It is not enough." And if this happens in the dry season, what will the situation be in winter, with its constant rainfall?

In conclusion, some comments. Not many, because each and every individual is sensible enough to make his own.

And now the saddest thing--a center which has cost so many thousands of pesos must report disastrous economic management. This kind of center was the hope for putting an end to the primitive units in the country. Its production was designed to provide an annual turnover of 4000 animals. But under such conditions, what will the quality be like?

And another thing. If brood sows are now produced, the needs of the breeding centers cannot be met. Will there be more meat, then? This is the reason for the initial concern about the fate of the animals we plan to breed. We reiterate: Can they continue to develop?

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CSH: 30110

TOBACCO CULTIVATION RESEARCH SEEKS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Havana VERDE (LIV) in Spanish 28 Oct. 79 pp 10-13

[Article by Eliana Garcia Gira'dino: "Leaf and Aroma--Unknown Factors?"]

[Text] AIN--San Antonio de los Baños, the Havana tobacco growing zone since the days of the Marchioness of Montehermoso, continues its aromatic traditions with numerous areas in which the valuable leaf is cultivated, and the location on its territory of the leading center of the national research network for this crop.

This unit is an experimental station which directs the research on tobacco carried out at the substations located at San Juan y Martínez, San Luis (Pinar del Río), Cabaiguán and the Escambray.

In each of these places there is a separate world characterized by a zeal for study and experimentation in the search for genetic improvements and other factors as a function of the development of the harvest.

In the midst of measuring tools, microscopes, test tubes, small plant samples, reference books and experimental areas, our scientists are at work, dedicated to deepening and broadening the research on tobacco, a plant whose history dates back to 1492, when the Spaniards in Baracoa observed the Indians smoking.

Many long years have elapsed since then, during which Cuba has won title and fame as "the land of the world's best tobacco," and the cigars made with the leaves grown in San Juan y Martínez, San Luis and other zones are in great demand internationally. For this reason this branch is a notable source of income for Cuba.

For these and many other reasons encouragement of tobacco research in the country is necessary. It reveals various unknown factors which can only be clarified on the basis of persistence, stubbornness and intelligence.

How Can New Varieties Be Obtained?

We note the need for persistence, stubbornness and intelligence, and we reiterate that need, since traditionally the research with a view to new varieties has taken about 10 years of constant experimentation and initiative.

This information was provided by Jorge Santiesteban Laguna, head of the genetics department at the center, as our reporters began their talk with him. But he subsequently pointed out that a new method reducing the time to be invested to only 12 months has been introduced in Cuba for the first time. It involves developing isogenetic lines on the basis of the value cultivation of tobacco anthers (all products of an isogenetic plant are genetically identical).

"The new method is of great importance because it facilitates selection, improvement, and in a short time varieties with a hundred percent genetic purity can be obtained, which was never achieved with the traditional methods, which in addition took a long time. On the other hand, the use of this method eliminates all genetic variation occurring in the biological material being used in the work. This greatly facilitates the task of selection, since it brings out characteristics which would otherwise remain concealed."

While providing extensive detail about this interesting aspect, this department head, who also has a degree in biology, showed reporters through the station, which is located on a four caballeria farm adjacent to the Lazaro Pena Tobacco Enterprise.

The entrance to this main research center is flanked by sandalwood palms, guava trees and tobacco curing premises. Then come premises housing the laboratories, warehouses, office, machine workshops and field experimentation areas.

We first went to the laboratories, where we met agronomist engineer Remy Capote, in charge of the dark tobacco selection project. It is this young scientist who uses the new method of obtaining varieties superior in productivity per caballeria, resistant to disease and of higher quality.

SH-2 Offers Excellent Prospects

We asked Capote if he could describe this method step by step.

"The normal crossing of varieties is effected, seeking high quality and resistance to disease. From the plants obtained through crossing, floral buds (in an insipient stage of development) are taken.

The floral buds are prepared for extraction and planting of the anthers. The buds are immersed in a 75 percent alcohol solution for several seconds, followed immediately by 3 or 4 minutes immersion in a 0.1 percent solution of mercury dichloride. Then they are rinsed in sterile distilled water.

The floral buds are opened and the anthers extracted and placed in a cultural medium (in a test tube). Each tobacco flower has five anthers, and equal numbers are placed in each tube.

Beginning with the fourth week, various plants begin to appear in the test tube, and when they have four or five leaves, they are separated, each being put in a small polyethylene bag after treatment with hormones for rooting.

The little bags are placed in a glass bell to maintain the approximate test tube environment and avoid sudden change. They are kept in the bell for about five days, during which time it is gradually lifted so that they can acclimatize.

Then they are placed in a layered air-flow machine where they stay one to two months, until they have a sufficient root system for transplanting. They are placed in large bags until they have three or four flowers. The upper flowers are removed and treated with colchicine at 0.1 percent (a substance which multiplies the number of chromosomes).

Finally, the plant is allowed to continue flowering and the formed capsules which contain the seeds for multiplication. Each capsule contains approximately 2,000 seeds."

After Capote completed his explanation, Santiesteban added that in this way, four isogenic lines have already been developed, including that called 70-2, which has produced promising preliminary results.

But this is a relatively recent method. What has the research network suffered with the traditional one?

Santiesteban answered. "We have two varieties in the commercial stage, Escambray 70 and Cabaiguan 72, both dark tobacco. We have planted large areas with excellent results--better yield and quality and resistance to disease, and a reduction in the labor force needed (elimination of the process of removing suckers).

Looking For Expansion

While we talked with Santiesteban, the general director of the station, Carlos Antonio Alvarez, arrived at the station. He immediately embarked on a thorough, warm and enthusiastic explanation of the practical scientific arguments for expanding the production of the Escambray 70 and Cabaiguan 72 varieties.

"They are of good quality (better than the Frio de Oro variety), produce more than a 50 percent increase in production per hectare, and allow for mechanization (an imperative for development), and allow the use of high school students as a work force, since the removal of suckers is not necessary and the varieties are resistant to disease.

"During the last harvest we planted a field where the soil is not optimal for tobacco. In addition the blue mild disease developed and the quality was bad. Well now, with all these negative factors, the production was generously surpassed what was traditionally obtained."

Our visit to the station coincided with the preparations for a meeting to discuss the expansion of these varieties, and Carlos Antonio was involved with the reports and statistics supporting the plans for these new varieties.

To illustrate his explanation, he found a sample of Escambray 70 tobacco, and showed us its large and clean leaves, and he even fashioned two small cigars and demonstrated how well they burned. This variety is recommended for the production of raw material for the cigar industry, while Escambray 72 is recommended for the manufacture of cigarettes.

The National Network

We then asked Carlos Antonio to tell us about the network, and he explained that it comprises the San Juan y Martínez, San Juan, San Antonio de Barro and Cabalgan experimental stations, as well as the Baudales station.

"There are 28 university graduates and 23 middle-level technicians in the entire network," Santiesteban contributed, "including six university graduates and seven technicians working on genetic improvement."

Carlos Antonio then went on to explain various aspects of the new experimental center located in San Antonio de los Baños. It is headed by a director, an assistant director for science and technology and one for culture and development.

In addition there are the genetics, agronomy and economic departments. Currently, along with the genetic improvement research, experiments in the preparation of the land and studies of nurseries or seed plots and the application of organic matter are being pursued.

Other work is undertaken in cooperation with other studies on seed selection, irrigation, soil, plant health and mechanization.

In addition, the National Scientific Council functions as an advisory body in the tobacco research network, and its activity is focused on establishing the prospects for development at the central station and in the various regional stations.

Daylin Antonio also expressed his views about this research front in general, stating that the maximum of results has not been achieved, and that the most advanced sector is genetic. However, other spheres of study are being promoted in an awareness that much remains to be done.

Beans and Tobacco?

Along with experimental tobacco areas we saw plantings of soy and other varieties of beans. Why? "This is one of the current lines of study," responded the director of the center, "involving use of tobacco land in the intervals between seasons. If this is not done the land remains fallow about six months."

There are six varieties involved--sweet corn, beans for human consumption and plants for animal consumption and soil improvement.

Assessment and Direction

The Second National Plant Genetic Conference sponsored by the State Committee on Science and Technology is to be held in the days to come in Havana. It will serve as a framework for an assessment of the work done since the last conference held in April of 1976.

On the basis of the work done since then, what achievements can the tobacco cultivators' research network boast? Santiesteban undertook to explain:

"In terms of genetic improvements in tobacco, we can say that we have carried out the resolutions of the first conference. Among the results obtained is the definition of the types of genetic action involved in the control of the key quantitative characteristics of the dark and light types of tobacco.

"Other achievements include development of the Excambray 70 and Cabilgani 77 varieties of dark tobacco, the recommendation for production of two new varieties of light tobacco with excellent organoleptic qualities and high agricultural and industrial yields. On the other hand, the Burley 37 variety was introduced, making it possible to resume cultivation of this type of tobacco in Cuba, because of the level of its resistance to *Phytophthora parasitica* var. *nicotianae*, the main phytopathogen attacking tobacco in our country."

We asked what the network would tell the conference about present work.

"The development of basic directed research in the field on quantitative genetics, preservation and phenological characterization of the different varieties included in the germplasm bank and evaluation of the level of their resistance in the main diseases and plagues.

Also, protoplasts have been obtained from leaf cells and pollen grains. This is the new method with great prospects for use in the genetic improvement of tobacco, because by this means it is possible to obtain intergeneric hybrids which cannot be produced by sexual hybridization, and to induce and isolate mutants by applying microbiological methods. These aspects will be very useful in the campaign against plant plagues and diseases.

"Also, it has been possible artificially to induce mutations by means of the use of physical and chemical mutagens with a view to obtaining mutants resistant to *Orobancha ramosa*, as well as other studies."

We asked what recommendations would be submitted.

"That the development of the current tobacco improvement program be continued, and that greater stress be placed on improvement of resistance to diseases and illnesses, with a view to obtaining varieties resistant to the major phytopathogens in Cuba."

To conclude this report, all the comrades in the network merit the warmest congratulations on their efforts and the results of their work, and they are urged to strengthen any weak points and to advance toward development, relying on science and technology.

5157

CSO: 3010

CUBA

BRIEFS

FISH CATCH RECORD--The Cuban Government has announced that last year was a record year for the fishing sector. According to the Cuban News Agency PRENSA LATINA, some 213,000 tons of fish and other seafood were caught last year. This was said to be 10 times greater than any catch since Cuban President Castro assumed control of the government. The production value of the 35 enterprises within the Fisheries Ministry reached 185.6 million U.S. dollars, which is an 11 percent increase over 1977. And there were also increases in revenue from fishing exports. Cuban authorities attributed the successes of the fishing sector to the emphasis the government had placed on development in that area. [Text] [FL212104 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 21 Nov 79 FL]

CSO: 3020

EL SALVADOR

FORMER EXILES COMMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PA211638 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Nov 79 pp 4, 24 PA

[Text] Reynaldo Cruz Menjivar said yesterday during a news conference held by the United Popular Action Front (FAPU) we demand the release of the political prisoners for the peace of mind of their families and the people.

The meeting was held in the auditorium at the law school of the University of El Salvador, where Cruz Menjivar and Dr Doroteo Gomez Arias were presented to the public following their arrival in the country.

The two men had been political refugees under the previous government. They took asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy and subsequently left for Europe.

Cruz Menjivar made an appeal to the FAPU, the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) and other organizations to "join in the struggle for the people's rights." He said they should struggle for the release of the missing political prisoners, although he said "most of them are already dead. At least their skeletons should be turned over for burial by their families," he added.

For his part, Dr Gomez Arias said: "Formerly, we were considered mere criminals, but now we are being viewed in our true role as fighters." He added international tribunals have been created to judge the war criminals who practiced the oppression of the people.

"As far as the political prisoners are concerned, we are demanding their release as well as an investigation and judgment of the assassins, torturers, degenerates who are standing erect before the patriotic symbols without knowing what the fatherland consists of" Cruz Menjivar said. He said after being arrested he had been held in the jail of the treasury police, from which he made a spectacular escape and then sought asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy.

We Want an Investigation

There must be an honest and complete investigation, with punishment and judgment for war criminals as human reason and justice demand. We do not want 60-day investigations into the matter of the political prisoners. Let them be soon, Cruz Menjivar said.

He also urged the people to realize the coup d'etat was staged. "[The government] apparently has power, but it is the fascist clique which is ruling. The people are being deceived. The issue of the political prisoners has not been considered as yet. Only false committees have been formed," he said.

Vindication of the People

Cruz Menjivar also called on popular organizations to continue to struggle in unity for the vindication of the working class, from which the true people's revolution will come.

Regarding the media, he said they have not told the people the truth. "The people must be objectively informed, since they are getting to know their true situation, although with much sacrifice and pain," he said.

Monster of Imperialism

In addition Saul Villalta [not further identified] said the junta is a continuation of the Romero dictatorship. He described it as a "monster of U.S. imperialism, which promoted the coup d'etat."

The true reports, he added, have been distorted in the European press. The reports said only two persons died in a recent confrontation, but we have denied this type of information abroad. The international press said the junta had released 107 political prisoners, but this is false. We have reported the true Salvadoran situation abroad.

Call for Unity

Villalta also called on popular organizations to struggle for true unity, in order that this process may be consolidated.

"I also appeal to the honest elements within the traditional political parties to support the people, not the present farcical junta. An international campaign will be launched to have democratic governments demand the junta keep its promises," he added.

Villalta said the junta must demand the rightist elements eliminate the White Warriors Union (UGB) and other repressive organizations which the rightists support. "It must oust the fascists who are still within the security corps and the army."

Struggle for Liberation

The speakers said: "We have not renounced insurrection. In the next few days we will begin the serious phase of the struggle for the liberation of the Salvadoran people. There will be a total collapse. [sentence as published]"

They added "The task is to wage campaigns in Europe and other areas to achieve the solidarity needed by the Salvadoran people who are prepared to give their blood and their rifles to win their liberation."

A Mother Spoke

Mrs Angelina Ramirez, mother of a political prisoner, was at the speaker's table at the news conference. She said, "I do not belong to any group. I have been struggling for 4 years to obtain my son's release."

She later added, "We do not believe in the junta because it allowed Romero and other war criminals to leave. We mothers have experienced immense anguish and the pain of not knowing our children's whereabouts. We will continue struggling to the end."

CSO: 3010

'GLENER' INTERVIEWS WPA'S RODNEY ON CHARGES AGAINST HIM

FL222236 Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 18 Nov 79 p 11 FL

[Article by C. Roy Reynolds]

[Text] "I am already in prison, I cannot leave the country, and I am forbidden to work to support myself and my family. In fact it is worse than being in prison."

So declared Dr. Walter Rodney to me in Georgetown on Tuesday afternoon, November 6, during an interview in my hotel room,

Dr. Rodney under indictment for arson with a number of other activists of the Working People's Alliance [WPA] in connection with the destruction of the headquarters of the ruling people's National Congress, is due to come up for trial before the magistrate's court early in January next year. Efforts to get the case tried by a jury were refused by the government.

Following is the interview with Dr. Rodney:

R.R...: "Dr. Rodney, what is the present situation with the case against you and your colleagues?"

W.R.: The first major issue was whether the case should be tried by a jury or by the magistrate's court. Our legal representatives argued that we should be tried by a jury, and that indictable cases should be so tried automatically.

However, the government's position is to claim that it has the discretion as to whether or not to do so, under the provisions of the Administration of Justice Act which it passed in parliament. You see in a case like this we will come up before a magistrate's court which the government controls.

R.R.: Are you suggesting that the government exercises control over magistrates?

W.R.: Yes. The prime minister himself has said publicly that the government gives directions to the magistrates. The whole judicial system is warped, but we would have preferred the case to be tried by the jury. The prime minister has already been on press and radio saying in effect that the case is being tried by the PNC [People's National Congress].

So-called state witnesses have been paraded at public meetings of the PNC. They have already tried the case. We are only going through the motions. In any decent system there would have been prosecution of the prime minister and other government members for contempt of court.

R.R.: So what are you going to do in the circumstances?

W.R.: We will continue to agitate politically both here and abroad. As far as we can see we have already been convicted before we go to court. Technically we could appeal a verdict handed down by the court, but while you are waiting for the appeal to be heard you would still be in prison, as this is the provision under the Administration of Justice Act.

R.R.: So is there no time frame under which the appeal must be heard having regard to the fact that if found guilty and sentenced you would have to be serving the sentence pending the resolution of the appeal?

W.R.: No. There is no time frame and there would be nothing to stop the appeal being drawn out throughout the duration of the sentence.

R.R.: What would be the maximum sentence if you are found guilty by the magistrate's court?

W.R.: Three years, but of course we could be given a token sentence of say three months so that the government can say to the world, "Look, we have found these despicable people guilty of this serious crime, but see how generous we are, we have only sentenced them to three months."

R.R.: Now, Dr. Rodney, the Working People's Alliance has come out in opposition to the government. How have you been going about this?

W.R.: We have been proceeding on two broad principles: the development of the party structure; and we have been attempting to achieve a degree of unity among the democratic forces opposed to the regime. We regard this unity as the most crucial in the struggle.

R.R.: Do you mean that you are seeking a unity based on an ideological outlook?

W.R.: No. Not so much in the sense of an ideological standpoint. The first objective is to restore conditions for a democratic way of life. If such an alliance came to power our first move will be to organize free elections. Free elections is the only way we think you can come to outright power.

Our objective is to mobilize an overwhelming gathering of democratic forces across the spectrum of ideological viewpoints, and by so doing to leave the government isolated in a handful of men. This is the most sensible approach we can try in the short run.

R.R.: What then if you achieve this situation?

W.R.: We would then practically present the Guyanese people and the world at large with an alternative government.

R.R.: You speak of a broad spectrum of democratic forces. How broad a spectrum are you referring to?

W.R.: The Working People's Alliance thinks it should involve not only the organized political parties but organizations from left of centre, centre and right of centre. This would include the trade unions, professional groups, citizens' organization, and bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers' Association.

R.R.: How is the government reacting to such moves?

W.R.: The government is reacting by raising fears of assassination of the leader. It is doing the things that can create the conditions for anarchy to break loose. When you push the people to the extent the government is now doing you are inviting such a response. But the Working People's Alliance does not believe the assassinations of any particular one is either here nor there. But, the way it is going the government is creating the pre-conditions for individual acts of assassination, by anybody.

R.R.: So how would you describe the present situation?

W.R.: The nature of the crisis is comparable to a state of war or a national disaster.

R.R.: You mentioned earlier that you hoped to unify the democratic forces to the extent where you can form what you call an alternative government. What would you do then?

W.R.: We would claim to speak with authority not only to the people of Guyana, but to the governments and peoples of the Caribbean.

R.R.: Are you happy with the attention you have been attracting from the Caribbean region so far?

Horrendous Plot

W.R.: We are happy with the increasing attention and fair coverage we have been getting from the press in the Caribbean, but we find it absolutely appalling the silence of the Caribbean governments, particularly from certain governments. For example, in the Vincent Teekah death issue there have been cables to the government deploring what they termed "this violence."

Obviously they have swallowed the government's claim in the issue, and in so doing they unwittingly lend themselves to a very horrendous plot. Their people could be misled by this.

R.R.: You have charged the government with subverting the democratic way of life. Are you also charging it with economic corruption?

W.R.: Yes. Corruption has entered into the very fabric of the Guyanese way of life to such an extent that any government that takes over will have a very difficult time. The work ethic has all but disappeared in Guyana. It is not easy to rebuild this. How can we ensure that the will to strive for high standards can be restored to the professional groups for example? The society has just got rotten, there's a lot of rot!

R.R.: This mobilization you have been talking about, have you seen much positive response from the people?

W.R.: We have. And this is part of the reason why the repression by the government has increased. The Guyanese people have been standing up. More and more people have been asking themselves: What price freedom?

The people have been showing that they are prepared to stand up. This government can't have a very long lease on life!

CSO: 3020

BRIEFS

GRENADA SOLIDARITY URGED--Kingston, Jamaica--The youth organization of the ruling People's National Party today declared its solidarity with the People's Revolutionary Provisional Government of Grenada headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The organization compares the closed Grenadian newspaper TORCHLIGHT with the daily GLEANER of Jamaica and links the attempts to overthrow the Grenadian Government with the recent increase of aggressive U.S. actions against the region. The People's National Party youth organization urged communists, socialist and other anti-imperialist forces to increase their solidarity with the people of Grenada and their vanguard--the New Jewel Movement. The democratic and people's governments of the region must be ready to help defend the Grenadian revolution if that becomes necessary, it said, [Text] [FL221145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Nov 79 FL]

CSO: 3010

BORGE SAYS FSLN SOLE VANGUARD OF REVOLUTION

PA221436 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Nov 79 pp 1, 4 PA

[Text] There is only one force capable of being the vanguard of our revolution and that force is the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez made the above statement yesterday afternoon during the closing of the seminar on foreign policy that took place in the Neysa Rios auditorium of the Central American University.

He warned that small groups of dogmatics do not want to understand what is happening in Nicaragua and who presently has power.

Commander Borge emphasized it is the Nicaraguan people who exercise the real power and the FSLN is their representative. He said: "We have the guns, the mass organizations and a government composed of honest elements who each day come closer to the guidelines of the FSLN." Therefore, "This revolution will go as far as our people want it to go," the Sandinist commander stated.

Tomas Borge affirmed this revolution is irreversible and no one can stop it. He added: "We know the historic truth and we are not going to lose sight of the true situation."

Recalling statements by the leader of the revolution, the [late] Commander Carlos Fonseca, the interior minister stated: "The FSLN was born outside revolutionary dialectics. It is the first revolution that emerged into political life more as a result of shame than as a result of awareness." He noted, however, that the FSLN was born as a specific answer to a situation. Commander Borge stated perhaps this is the reason we were not influenced by guerrilla styles that had been developed in other countries.

He said the Nicaraguan Socialist Party was founded in 1944 under the influence of Earl Browder, secretary general of the U.S. Communist Party. Browder advocated the reconciliation of classes (rich and poor) and the disappearance of imperialism.

Borge said in 1934 there was "a sort of popular digression" as a result of the death of Sandino, their hero. This allowed the traditional parties to gain control over political activities of our country.

Borge said the Nicaraguan armed struggle began in 1958 before the victory of the Cuban rebel army against the Batista dictatorship. He recalled veteran guerrilla fighter Ramon Raudales.

The Sandinist commander noted the FSLN was born in 1961 with no connection with the international revolutionary struggle. He referred to the Caribbean-legion-experience as "a modest effort at the Central American level."

He said the first Sandinist groups were organized in Chinandega, Managua and other places of the interior. Borge also noted the guerrilla experience of Rio Patuka-Rio Coco "was part of the FSLN effort in its liberation struggle."

The main characteristic of the Sandinist revolutionaries was that we never lost faith. "We knew that some day our army would be victorious and that we would overthrow the dictatorship."

The commander of the revolution clearly stated the revolution must be consolidated and intensified or the counterrevolution will win.

He cautioned that in our country "there is only one revolution, the Sandinist revolution" and he added: "There cannot be two different paths in any single country."

Borge then presented an example regarding this matter which at present is a fundamental point in our politics. His example was the single workers union because "there is only one." If there were several working classes then there would have to be several labor centrals and unions. But the truth is that there is only one working class. He stated: "We do not fear ideological pluralism. Other social forces have the right to participate but it is not fair that the working class, which is one, should have several organizations because this would factionalize it."

"We are going to consolidate our revolution because we cannot afford to become a bad example. Some governments blame us for what is happening in other countries that suffer poverty and repression," he added.

"Sometimes we would like to disappear when the mothers of our martyrs come to us in tears to demand punishment for their assassins. We could establish the death penalty. Our people would be happy. But we cannot do that because we are thinking about the Latin American people." Despite the atrocities the Somozist assassins carried out, "we are generous so that other movements of the Latin American people may benefit from this."

The interior minister noted the solidarity of the Honduran people with our revolution. We have many friends in Honduras, he stressed.

Borge warned there is a group of enemies of our revolution that wants to invade our territory. "We are going to give them a huge Christmas tree where we will hang their hopes," he stated.

Borge also referred to the governments and people of Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and Cuba, "who helped us, especially with the political and moral support."

Commander Borge agreed with the foreign policy statement of Commander Daniel Ortega to the effect that Nicaragua will broaden its friendship with the countries of the world.

CSO: 3010

SANDINIST GOVERNMENT HALTS CONFISCATIONS

PA222026 Paris AFP in Spanish 145 GMT 22 Nov 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Nov (AFP)--Worried over a noticeable drop in production, the Sandinist Government today made a complete aboutface in its policies and indefinitely halted confiscations of all types.

The step, which took the country completely by surprise, prohibits civilian and military authorities from confiscating real estate or movable properties under Decree No 3, issued by the junta hours after its installation on 22 August. The decree, which was enacted to confiscate the properties of former dictator Anastasio Somoza and his family, has been repealed.

According to the latest reports, a total of 6 million hectares of arable land and some 200 factories and commercial firms have already been confiscated.

The authority to confiscate properties gave rise to countless abuses bringing agricultural production to a virtual standstill in large areas of the country while the properties were investigated.

Spokesmen for private enterprise had expressed fears that next year's farm production would be severely affected because the farmers were afraid to invest in farms that might be confiscated.

The junta also lifted the freeze on hundreds of bank accounts that were under investigation. Decree No 155 authorizing confiscation of real estate properties owned by suspected Somozists was also repealed.

The newspaper BARRICADA, official organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), admitted today that many persons had complained of being deprived of properties by armed and uniformed persons posing as FSLN members. The newspaper added that the repealed decrees had created distrust in some sectors which felt insecure and therefore had discouraged production.

The newspaper stressed that no one will be allowed to make confiscations as of this afternoon and that whoever does so will be treated as a criminal and tried by the courts as such.

MEXICAN BISHOP NOTES IMPORTANCE OF SANDINIST REVOLUTION

PA200435 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 79 PA

[Text] The triumph of the Sandinist revolution has made Central America the launching point for the liberation of the American continent, Sergio Mendez Arceo, the so-called red bishop of Mexico, said here today. The bishop of Cuernavaca diocese, who made a short visit here, was introduced to a group of newsmen this weekend at the Culture Ministry. He said he was increasingly impressed with this volcanic revolution. The Mexican bishop added that he had always considered himself to be a part of the Sandinist revolution and had scored Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship from his cathedral.

Furthermore, he said he identified even more with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people when Commander Cero, Eden Pastora, who headed the attack on the Managua National Palace in August 1978, included him on a list of persons with whom the Somoza Government was to deposit a portion of the \$10 million which was demanded for the release of the deputies, ministers and minor officials being held hostage by a guerrilla unit.

"The somber picture of Nicaragua painted abroad is immediately dispelled as soon as one touches Nicaraguan ground. I admire the fact that the suffering produced by the civil war is being gladly borne by these people because they have faith in their liberation from hunger, poverty and the lack of education," the prelate said.

Monsignor Mendez Arceo also said he does not sympathize with the diplomatic-juridical attitude of the papal nuncios. He said he does not like them because they only appear to be one power confronting another. The bishop made this statement when he was informed of local criticism by Apostolic Nuncio Gabriel Montalvo, who allegedly identifies with the former regime and who remained silent in the face of Somoza's massacre of the people.

The bishop said Marxism is a dialectic, a form of human coexistence basically opposed to capitalism. He said capitalism is anti-Christian. The Catholic bishop said "there are common currents in socialism, Marxism and christianity--currents which permanently seek man's welfare." The bishop completed his statement in the participation of the goods created by God for man.
[sentence as heard]

On advising the Nicaraguan people to participate fully in their country's revolutionary process and to indulge in self-criticism, Monsignor Mendez Arceo said the eyes of Latin America christians are looking on Nicaragua with hope. If you are frustrated, we will all be frustrated, he said.

CSO: 3010

'EL PUEBLO' COLUMNIST VIEWS RELIGION'S FUTURE

PA220245 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 14 Nov 79 p 2 PA

[Article by Eva Caceres: "A Reactionary Slogan: One Is a Marxist or a Sandinist"]

[Text] On one of the walls of the Central American University is a slogan of the Christian Revolutionary Left [IRC] that embodies a complete anti-communist concept. Using the term Sandinist, it says "either one is a Marxist or a Sandinist." This highly opportunistic slogan tries to present Sandinism and Marxism as antagonistic trends in which there is no common ground.

A lecture at the anti-Somozist People's Militia (MILPAS) analyzed the terms and their role in the history of the country's revolutionaries. However, not all those who call themselves Sandinists are Marxists. The IRC slogan is proof of this. We have already seen the death of the first anticommunists unmasked before the masses by revolutionary forces.

This type of Catholic thinking within the revolutionary movement is the "clutch" used by the dominating classes in order to put the "brakes" on the exploited masses since religion is the last bastion of the reactionaries.

The fundamental bylaws of the new government state that one of the articles of freedom is freedom of worship. However, it does not say whether there is also freedom to practice atheism. Since atheism is revolutionary and this country is revolutionary the bylaws must be redrafted in order to establish the basis for a real revolution, although we may not see its results in the near future. It is not a matter of launching a campaign saying that God is reactionary. It is sufficient to refrain from promoting religion. Neither is it a matter of standing before a church and telling the parishioners that the devil was the first guerrilla because he rebelled against absolute power. This cannot be done because it is a matter of principle. Being an atheist does not give one the right to show disrespect for other people. Also, one could be lynched for expounding such a theory.

However, there are many ways of undermining religion and its use by the ruling classes. Religion is the main ideological bastion of the bourgeoisie and one way is to prevent the spread of their ideas at any level. Religion must not be forbidden, but neither must it be promoted.

For example, the worst thing that can happen is to teach religion during the literacy campaign. This would be the equivalent of regressing centuries to the time of Christopher Columbus. It would represent a new colonization.

Our people must be free. The peoples of the world must be free. Therefore, they must take steps that may not have immediate results but will be the base for more profound changes on the road to freedom.

CSO: 3010

CHURCH, STATE TALKS DESCRIBED AS 'FRUITFUL'

PA190049 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Nov 79 pp 1, 10 PA

[Text] The discussion between Nicaraguan bishops and representatives of the government junta and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) can be described as very fruitful in achieving mutual understanding.

The discussion took place at the initiative of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference. Revolutionary Commanders Tomas Borge Martinez, Humberto Ortega and Carlos Nunez participated along with Companero Alfonso Robelo and Companera Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, who represented the government junta.

At the end of the important meeting Cmdr Tomas Borge said there is a high degree of understanding between church and state and it is, therefore, possible to speak of a mutual understanding between the Sandinist revolution and the Nicaraguan Catholic hierarchy. Mrs Chamorro said there is an indisputable need for the church and the national government to continue to march together for the common welfare of all the people.

Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo said the revolutionary officials admitted that errors have been made and that the government is facing diverse problems as a result of the disastrous state in which the Somoquist regime left the country. The archbishop said the bishops had expressed their concern about the status of prisoners and the companeros of the revolution admitted that conditions in jails were indeed unfavorable and offer no comforts for prisoners. However, they said it should be remembered that these jails were inherited from the corrupt regime of the Somoza dynasty.

Monsignor Obando y Bravo quoted representatives of the revolution as saying that one reason there are more prisoners now than before is that the great number of Somoquist guards in prison clearly reflects the fact that the revolution respects human life, unlike the Somozists, who criminally exterminated our people.

The revolutionary officials added that special tribunals will soon be established to judge the Somozist prisoners. They emphasized that for the first time in half a century justice will definitely be meted out in our country. On the other hand, the revolutionary officials proposed that the bishops be responsible for providing food and medicine to the prisoners. However, Monsignor Obando y Bravo said the Episcopal Conference did not have enough financial resources to fulfill this task. "We were told," Monsignor Obando y Bravo said, "that we should have faith and give them a grace period of 8 months, after which criticism of the revolution would be valid."

Finally, the archbishop said the government and FSLN representatives spoke frankly and expressed a desire to continue talks of this type with church officials. He said everyone should be optimistic.

CSO: 3010

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES CLASS STRUGGLE IN COUNTRY

PA220229 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 79 p 2 PA

[Article by Pedro J. Chamorro: "Class Struggle and Hatred"]

[Text] Class struggle does not imply the physical extermination of one class by the other; it is the struggle for economic power between those who have the means of production and those who do not.

When the state nationalizes the means of production in order to serve the majority, the bourgeoisie disappears and the march to socialism is effectively started.

The state already owns more than 50 percent of the country's arable land and most of the industry. Everything was expropriated from Somoza and his gang of thieves who abused power for their personal enrichment. The difficult task to administer and efficiently carry out production of the country's resources, which are now in the state's hands, lies ahead. This is a task that will last several years and an experiment that is very original because state, private and mixed sectors will coexist.

A certain sector or "childish" Marxists believe that the most convenient thing for the revolution is to eliminate the private sector. They are mistaken because this would have a negative effect on production and employment which are already at alarming levels.

Creating an antimanagerial climate to scare the bourgeoisie and the specialized people out of the country is counterrevolutionary because it would disrupt the country's economic and social order and create a climate of uncertainty. This would not benefit the national goal to increase production.

The war of liberation was not a struggle of classes but a union of classes and political sectors (led by the Sandinist National Liberation Front). They joined in order to break away from the yoke of oppression by an army that, though Nicaraguan, behaved like an occupation army. The march toward reconstruction should also be united and fraternal. Hatred among classes breeds division. There are people who want to go from oppressed to oppressor and from proletarian to bourgeois even at the expense of national unity, the country's production and an increase in the level of unemployment.

Ignorance was the main reason for the fighting among Nicaraguans some time ago while others looted the country and made their plans to retreat to exile.

Somoza took advantage of the people's ignorance and poverty to organize a personal army which defended his interests. This army was an enemy of its own people and also part of them.

There will not be any counterrevolution if the Nicaraguan revolution achieves its goal of defeating ignorance and poverty. The people's enemies will be crushed by the people themselves.

The class struggle is solved through a change in unfair structures. However, if hatred and envy among classes is encouraged, this will be detrimental to the unity and peaceful coexistence which must be maintained to overcome the production and unemployment problems we are facing.

As Fidel Castro said, ours is a realistic revolution and has the advantage that it can avoid the errors committed by other revolutions. We are building the Nicaraguan revolution on the experience of other revolutions.

CSO: 3010

PRISON SYSTEM OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TREATMENT OF SOMOZISTS

PA220349 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Nov 79 pp 1, 10 PA

[Text] In statements of unquestionable human interest, Compañero Francisco de Asís Fernandez, responsible for the national penitentiary system of the Interior Ministry, has issued a fraternal appeal to the people in general and Sandinist organizations to end hostilities against the families of imprisoned Somozist guards.

The official said that instead of such hostility, our people and Sandinist organizations should help the revolution by making the relatives of Somozists understand why they have been imprisoned and why their families should join without reservations the beautiful process of deep changes we are experiencing.

"We have to point out this problem because this is one of the tasks of revolutionary justice. For obvious reasons, in Nicaragua there is very deep hatred and rancor against anything dealing with Somozist guards and in general against anything that represents Somozism," he added.

"We understand," he said, "that this rancor is fully justified because of the atrocities that the Somozists committed against our people, including the horrible genocide. However, this rancor is being incorrectly expressed by some sectors that are rejecting or practically expelling from society all relatives of the Somozists, including children who rather than being Somozist have expressed great sympathy for Sandinism."

Compañero Fernandez said some children of Somozists no longer play with neighborhood friends, are annoyed in their schools, or are the target of hostilities in their neighborhoods because they are the children of imprisoned Somozist guards. He indicated that from the Sandinist viewpoint this is very serious because we are not taking advantage of the children's sympathy toward our process. If those children are not incorporated into the process, in the future they might share the Somozists' lack of understanding of the meaning of Sandinism and the revolution that favors our people.

"The national penitentiary system has the essential task of explaining to the Somozist prisoners why we won and they lost. However, our task does not end there but extends toward the rest of society, which includes the relatives of the prisoners," he added. "Therefore, we also need our people's understanding toward the families of the imprisoned guards or other Somozists."

Companero Francisco de Asis Fernandez granted the interview today shortly before leaving for Havana to participate in an international symposium on prison systems. Approximately 27 to 30 countries, including some from the West, will participate in the event.

Regarding the symposium, he said his participation will essentially consist of learning from the experiences of other countries regarding the proper treatment of prisoners. The knowledge that is obtained there might be applied in Nicaragua in accordance with our realities, characteristics and limitations.

CSO: 3010

NEW TAXES LEVIED ON CAPITAL, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

PA100439 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 9 Nov 79 PA

[text] Managua, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government will soon impose a new tax on property valued at over 100,000 cordobas (\$10,000), Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, announced today.

Ramirez made this announcement today at the opening session of the first Latin American journalism seminar at the Camino Real Hotel. This seminar has been named after Carlos Fonseca Amador, the revolutionary leader of Nicaragua. The seminar, sponsored by the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua and the Managua Radio Newsmen's Union, ends Sunday. It is supported by the Latin American Federation of Newsmen.

Ramirez said "irresponsible propaganda" is being waged against Nicaragua domestically and internationally, and added that "the private sector will disappear from Nicaragua." He said the present national reconstruction process in Nicaragua "includes responsible participation" by the private sector.

He said the government will pass a fiscal reform law establishing a 6-percent tax on property valued at more than 100,000 cordobas. The Nicaraguan leader emphasized that large funds are required for literacy programs, the building of health centers, mass vaccinations, purchase of medicine and so forth. In the purchase of medicine alone, he said, we are spending 30 million cordobas monthly.

He said taxes on alcoholic beverages will be increased "substantially" but that taxes on wheat and bread will be abolished.

Ramirez also said an emergency development plan is being drafted for the coming year and will be revealed on 15 December. He added that 1980 will be a still more difficult year and that therefore, starting now, we must take concrete measures to meet the situation. He said the plan will be discussed with representatives of mass organizations in December "so the people will have the last word on the matter." He explained that next year will be difficult because all of the fields were not planted due to the war and that the few existing industries were destroyed by the planes of the former administration.

He also said there are many economic problems confronting the national reconstruction process and that participation is "open to all economic and social sectors." Ramirez emphasized that there are also positive aspects to be noted, such as international solidarity. He said solidarity with Spain and the Latin American countries had been effective.

CSO: 3010

BANK OFFICIAL EXPLAINS FINANCIAL SYSTEM

PA221555 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 79 PA

[Text] Javier (Bone), responsible person of the Executive Secretariat of the Higher Council of Nationalized Financial Institutions, during a news conference explained the benefits to be obtained from the nationalization of these institutions.

A secretariat in charge of providing economic, financial and administrative advice has been established to outline the policy of the new financial system. The council is in charge of planning and advising the government on the reorganization of the banking system.

[Begin (Bone) recording] Despite the postwar situation, bank deposits have increased. Great efforts have been made to normalize the financing system. For example, on 17 November 1979 bank deposits had reached 3,603 billion cordobas, the deposits for the same period last year were 3,607 billion cordobas. As you can see there was only a slight difference and there has been no stampede among the people to withdraw their funds from banks, as has been rumored. The campaign carried out by financial institutions and the improved services in banks have contributed strengthening the people's confidence. We know some things need to be improved. We are taking the necessary measures to solve all the deficiencies. We are certain that efficiency at the banks will soon be back to normal,

As for credits, the financial system has given full support to agricultural export activities according to the policy approved by the Central Bank. Special attention has been given cotton, coffee, meat and basic grains from which we can obtain foreign exchange. We can say without exaggeration that financial resources have increased. Although November is a slow month for bank deposits, from the figures mentioned earlier you can see that we have reached last year figures and by December we expect to improve previous figures when the money from cotton and coffee sold abroad starts to come in. We are very optimistic about the future of our financial system which as I said earlier will soon be back to normal.

I want to thank the people for their support to our banks and financing institutions. We want them to have confidence in the government and in our financing system which is characterized, now more than ever before, by the desire to serve the people. [end recording]

TURNCOAT BANKERS, 'ELEGANT ROBBERS' BLAMED FOR BRAIN DRAIN

PA211528 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Nov 79 PA [no page number given]

[Editorial: "The Duty of Professionals and Technicians to the Revolution"]

[Text] Step by step our leaders have outlined the role each class and social sector should play within the revolutionary process. Just yesterday Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge appealed to technicians and professionals to join the revolutionary process and to reject the maneuvers abroad of turncoat bankers and other "elegant thieves" to get these Nicaraguan professionals and technicians to leave Nicaragua. Apparently the counterrevolution is resorting to the incentive of dollars and a series of ideological "lures" to deliberately cause a "flight of brains" and thus boycott the Sandinist popular revolution.

Nicaraguan professionals and technicians must increase their awareness of this situation and its effects on the development of the process. The revolution demands definite stands and, in this case, the alternatives are clear: either become subservient in the eyes of the old bosses by accepting stolen money as payment for your collaboration with foreign interests or join the revolutionary process in full, serving the fatherland and the interests of the people and learning about the demands and satisfactions our struggle offers.

The difficulties facing our process are many and there has been no attempt to hide them. But over and above this we must envisage the enormous satisfaction any honest Nicaraguan will have in fighting shoulder to shoulder with the people to pull our country out of backwardness and underdevelopment.

From the standpoint of their own interests, the professionals and technicians today have the opportunity to fully develop their capabilities, their interest in research in the fields of medicine, science and technical affairs in general and to make valuable contributions to the nation and our development strategy.

In the past Somozism not only brutally repressed our people, but it was also an obstacle to the development of national culture and the advancement of technical and scientific fields. Many Nicaraguan technicians and professionals were frustrated when they worked on farming development and infrastructure projects, natural resource conservation plans and so forth that were never implemented because political interests impeded them.

ARMY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATING UNIVERSITY DEAN

PA212349 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 14 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] The prosecutor's office of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) has reported that it is in charge of the investigation of Roger Garcia Zepeda, dean of the Economic Sciences Department of the Central American University [UCA]. It also indicated that there are reasons for his detainment. Luis Martinez, EPS deputy prosecutor, said the office is trying to verify evidence that Garcia participated "in something affecting the army's interests." Since his accomplices are members of the EPS, the prosecutor's office is in charge of the case. If the investigation indicates that the dean is guilty he will immediately be turned over to the common courts.

Because of the students' expressions of solidarity with the professor and the rumor that he had been kidnaped, the prosecutor's office invited UCA rector Armando Lopez and student representatives to see Garcia and confirm that he is being treated well during the investigation process.

In a meeting with students, rector Lopez told them the dean wants them to wait for the results of the investigation because desperate attitudes could hinder the investigation. The rector said the prosecutor's office will not make public the reasons for the arrest so Garcia will not be harmed in the event he is found innocent. He said if the students insist on knowing the reasons he will have no other alternative but to publicly disclose the case without having verified the charges.

"We spoke with him and he asked us to stop all movements on his behalf so the investigation can be carried out. He is healthy and in the prosecutor's office. He is not in any jail since he has not really been arrested. He is only being investigated, and until there is proof against him we will continue to believe he is innocent," the rector said,

The students at the UCA are eagerly waiting for the investigation to end. During the meeting with the rector they decided to ask the authorities to permit the dean's family to see him. The dean's mother, Maria Luisa Zepeda, attended the meeting. She came from her home in Chinandega when she learned her son had been detained.

UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES CENTER IN ESTELI

PA221837 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 17 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] The "Leonel Rugama" Northern Regional University Center was inaugurated yesterday in Esteli by representatives of the government junta, the Ministry of Education, the National University, local authorities and the people in general.

The regional university center is part of the decentralization project for the National University which came into being with yesterday's inauguration. Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman said it was an "old aspiration of the National University and it has been installed in Esteli thanks to the Sandinist revolution."

He said at this university center classes will be given on Saturday for those who work and cannot attend daily. He said the various schools will primarily be geared toward the agricultural activities in the region.

Illiteracy: A Dramatic Reality

He also said the data gathered about illiteracy in the country and dramatically proved its existence, especially among the 5 to 15-year old range. Sixty percent of this age group are illiterate even though many of them have attended primary school.

Promotion of Illiteracy

He said primary schools were "factories of illiterates" because of the educational program of the Somozist regime.

He emphasized the need of involving all the people in the task of teaching reading and writing and said "all those who know how to read and write must teach those who do not know."

Emergency Unemployment Plan for Next March

He announced the government's firm determination to confront the unemployment problem which will become more acute after the cotton and coffee harvests.

He said a national emergency plan will be implemented next march with the building of roads, hospitals, schools and infrastructure projects which will require much manpower.

Patriotic 6 Percent Tax

He also said all Nicaraguans of means must pay a 6 percent yearly tax to the revolution which he called a "patriotic tax."

He said in conclusion lower-income government employees will not be affected by the changes made in the payment of the 13th month. However, higher-paid government employees will have to contribute a certain percentage to create a large government fund with 13th month donations.

Moises Gonzalez, Esteli municipal government junta coordinator, said the inauguration of the regional university center was "a historic event for the Segovians [as published]." He then said they must remain alert to the maneuvers of the bourgeoisie and imperialism which plot against the revolution.

He accused the capitalist system of threatening humanity and said "capitalism and its money killed respect for human beings." He also criticized himself for not having invited the university students already enrolled at the Esteli University Center.

National University Union Representative Speaks

Evenor Morales of the National University Workers Union said unions must play an important role in the revolutionary process and within the university.

He also said the regional university center must serve the local needs of the working classes.

Donald Lopez, university center representative said the university is a place for the people and students must forget their previous small bourgeois, mercantile and individualist mentality.

Now professionals will not exploit the people but serve them, Lopez added and said the university "must paint itself the color of the workers, peasants, Indian--red and black."

Other speakers included Ricardo Rodriguez of the Sandinist Workers Central, Adrian Ignacio Irias of the University Center faculty, Mirna Blandon of the university students and Bayardo Altamirano, university center rector.

During an intermission a large group of children from emergency housing centers sang a song called "Esteli" and at the end of the ceremony sang the Sandinist front anthem.

FARMWORKERS ASSOCIATION VOICES POSITION ON STATE COUNCIL

PA212319 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Nov 79 p 3 PA

[Article by the Farmworkers Association: "Farmworkers: To the State Council!"]

[Text] In the years prior to the overthrow of the dictatorship and during the struggle, the Farmworkers Association [ATC] began to grow as an organization. The ATC is the organization which truly represents farmworkers. Together with our vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], it promotes the tasks of the revolution.

We have struggled and will continue to struggle against all the interests which oppose the achievement of the revolutionary objectives: these objectives are our liberation and a better future without the evils of Somoism. If we must again shed our blood to achieve our objectives, we will do so because we will never permit a return to the miserable conditions imposed on the peasants by Somoza and his clique of political allies who are now using what they call ideological pluralism to try to snatch victory away from the people.

There are organizations which have no support among the masses, which express interests alien to the masses and which even hinder the revolution that cost the people so much blood and sacrifice. Organizations such as the Social Christian Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Democratic Socialist Party and others are demanding a place in the future Council of State. In making this demand, these groups argue that they participated in the fight against the dictatorship. They did participate in it but only to safeguard their private interests. At the crucial moment they betrayed the struggle and allied themselves with the imperialists and Somoism. That is why they did not wage the struggle to its ultimate conclusion. Instead, the FSLN became the authentic vanguard of the people and has outlined the political path all Nicaraguans support.

The members of the ATC believe the future Council of State should only be composed--and let this be clear--of those organizations which truly represent the people's interests and which are determined to undertake, at whatever cost, the tasks of the revolution and the construction of the new Nicaragua.

The Council of State cannot be an instrument of the interests we fought. If the forces comprising this Council of State do not serve the revolution, who are they serving? How can we permit the participation of extreme leftist groups in the Council of State? Those groups have systematically dedicated themselves to sabotaging production, burning fields and farms and harassing our forces. These groups urge the workers to demand wage increases at a time when they know perfectly well that the country cannot meet those demands because the economy would go bankrupt and everyone would pay the consequences.

We reiterate our support for the position of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on the Council of State and the postponement of its establishment until 4 May, the day of national dignity. We are clearly aware of the urgent tasks we must undertake to consolidate our process. These tasks must not be delayed because of the selfish interests of those who have always opposed our revolution.

We urge all farmworkers to close ranks in the face of this new threat against us and to be vigilant in the face of these new maneuvers of the country's most reactionary sectors,

The Farmworkers Association. Let us defend our revolution! Let us crush the counterrevolution!

CSO: 3010

ACUTE MEDICINE SHORTAGE AFFECTING HEALTH CARE

PA220133 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1835 GMT 20 Nov 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua is seeking raw materials in Italy and Bulgaria to increase the production of medicine to alleviate the serious shortage the country is experiencing as a result of the recent long period of insurrection. The almost complete absence of medicine in clinics and hospitals of the single public health system and the free distribution of medicine has made the problem more acute and is the object of public debate at all levels.

Acting Health Minister Juan Ignacio Gutierrez complained that "the people and the news media have failed to realize that in spite of fewer resources such as plants, instruments and medicine, health care has increased 137 percent after only 4 months of revolutionary government."

During the war Somoza's air force bombarded the country's principal cities and destroyed several hospitals and health centers. Medical instruments and medicine were stolen from these facilities. The minister emphasized that the demand for health care has increased in the hospitals still standing. The ability to properly care for patients has been limited and has magnified the situation. All the blame for this situation is being attributed to the authorities. "This is due to a lack of understanding since we reflect a generalized and justified situation throughout the public administration," the minister explained.

Bayardo Arce, commander of the revolution and member of the Sandinist Front leadership, accused several doctors and nurses of "lack of interest in the defense of the working class, which is being mistreated in hospitals and clinics" and called on all officials to abandon the bureaucratic attitudes that prevent proper care of the patients. "We are not trying to make excuses for the great limitations, difficulties and logical errors of our revolution. We must provide solutions and make suggestions to outline the path we must take to reach practical solutions so that the process can advance," said Arce.

On the basic problem of medicine, the acting health minister said that by obtaining raw materials in Italy and Bulgaria the Nicaraguan "Rarpe" and "Solka" laboratories, the latter of which was just recently nationalized,

could meet 70 percent of the nation's medicinal needs. He said several countries have blocked sales of medicine to Nicaragua and are demanding payment of the debts left by the previous regime.

Concerning donations, Gutierrez said there have been false expectations at the local level because little medicine has been sent by other countries. He said this medicine has amounted to a total value of 15 million cordobas (\$1.5 million)--an amount that is consumed in 15 days--during the 4 months of the new government.

The actual needs of hospitals is such, according to the official, that the U.S. Government sent 17,000 dosages of serum. A single hospital uses 14,000 dosages per month. The government is exploring the possibility of obtaining medicine quickly from socialist countries. Monthly purchases amount to 30 million cordobas (\$3 million).

Meanwhile, the Public Health Ministry plans to construct 6 hospitals and more than 100 health centers in the country's interior in 1980. Their construction and equipment will depend on the financing obtained from international organizations. Some of them, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, have promised funds to the Sandinist Government.

CSO: 3010

'BARRICADA' REVIEWS HONDURAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

PA220041 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Excerpts] An article published in Honduras' EL TIEMPO by the people's revolutionary organization said the creation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front was one of the failures of U.S. imperialism in its attempt to repress revolutionary movements.

The organization is promoted by the People's Unity Movement (MUP), which made an analysis of the Honduran situation and revealed imperialists' maneuvers in Central American countries to prevent the liberation of peoples and the use of "counterinsurgency strategies."

The MUP article says military regimes supported by U.S. imperialism have not solved the workers' basic problems and in the case of Honduras have served only to repress the people and took control of the public administration as a war booty.

It said that within the existing situation of repression and misery preparations are being made for an electoral farce to be held in April 1980 in an alleged "democratic opening." This farce is designed to deter people from struggling for their legitimate interests--land, work, health, housing and the final eradication of the misery and hunger produced by the exploitation of the proimperialist native oligarchy and the military dictatorship.

The MUP is opposed, the article says, to the continuation of the electoral farce which is only making a mockery of the Honduran people. It says the workers' misery can be only ended by the organization, which will fight for the creation of a people's revolutionary government of workers and peasants. This is the only guarantee for the building of a more just society for the workers--a socialist society.

CSO: 3010

HOUSING MINISTRY PROMOTES CONSTRUCTION BANK

PA151349 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 79 p 5 PA

[Text] The Housing and Settlement Ministry is trying to promote the Construction Materials Bank as one project to support the reconstruction program. As part of a program being designed by the ministry, the Construction Bank will provide construction material to those trying to build or rebuild their homes.

The bank will operate as a type of supermarket and regulator of construction material prices. The project has not yet been tried anywhere in Nicaragua, but efforts are being made to open the first one as soon as possible.

It will not be a big hardware store, but it will carry those materials essential for the construction of low cost housing. Considering the fact [that] the Housing Ministry is responsible for providing suitable housing for every Nicaraguan family, it has a lot of building to do and must buy a lot of material. This volume will make more reasonable prices possible. The sales price will be the same as the cost price.

There has never been such a bank in Nicaragua. It can be considered a product of the revolution.

The Housing Ministry is presently working to organize the first bank in Manimbo, through what is known as mutual training experience. In this method the future home builder will teach some practical aspects to the officials, who in turn will offer their theoretical knowledge to the homeowner.

This project will only cover 4 of the 32 blocks of Manimbo. Two [as published] of the blocks under consideration are El Arenal, Aurelio Mercado Caspar Laviana, Elena Ortiz Florez School and Camilo Ortega.

Each project is designed after study has been made of the needs of each housing unit on the basis of a walking tour of the area. A questionnaire is also sent to the interested blocks, as some of them have construction material factories, which limits the material the bank needs to supply.

Housing Ministry officials have not drawn up a specific design. Each family may decide what type of house it wants within the budget possibilities of the ministry and under supervision of the ministry experts.

All of Monimbo is going to participate in the work for the four designated blocks which include about 300 families. In order to actively participate, the men, women and children of the area are organizing volunteer work brigades, since they will not be paid. Later, they will be given a training course. The residents of Monimbo have made it clear: If other companeros gave their blood for the revolution, now they will offer their sweat for the reconstruction. The natives of Monimbo are hard working; many engage in their own crafts. Therefore, the working hours will be after 1700 on weekdays, Saturday afternoons and all day Sunday. The results of these first four blocks will later be extended throughout Monimbo.

The Housing Ministry officials are quite hopeful about the program, in which they expect to learn many useful things, that later will be applied throughout Nicaragua.

CSO: 3010

ARCE DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION

PA212115 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Nov 79 pp 1, 10 PA

[Text] At a seminar sponsored by the 19 July Sandinist Youth, Commander Bayardo Arce discussed the important role of education in the development of the revolutionary process.

"The educational program that our country has been involved in is very limited because of the nation's economic underdevelopment, set up by the dictatorial military power which always remained at the service of the transnationals and those who exploited the people," Commander Arce said.

He added that "the role of education can only be determined by the political situation which has served as the framework for the struggle for independence. One cannot talk about the educational system in an abstract sense; it should be discussed like any other social activity which determines the lives of our people."

The situation that Commander Arce referred to was the 40 years under the dictatorship and the 100 years under imperialist domination, which always determined--through special organizations--the number of professionals required to fill the needs of the investors instead of the needs of the people.

For this reason, the revolution faces the problem of a lack of professionals. This scarcity stems from the fact that the government never took account of the thousands of peasants who need housing, electricity, running water, schools, hospitals and recreational areas, Commander Arce noted.

Education in the Revolution

"Education is not a unilateral process. We have stressed to technicians, professors and teachers that education is the result of a bilateral process in which knowledge is forged and the teacher or professor does not act as the know-it-all but as guide or coordinator," he said.

It is not only important to produce technicians but to combine the technical and political aspects. This is how knowledge will transform the

situation with which the student must be identified in order to create the new being, the being who will be prepared based on the needs of the revolution.

Companero Arce stressed that the country's future lies in the agricultural sector in order to boost production. Regarding this, he criticized the fact that less than 200 students out of the 23,000 who registered at the National Autonomous University chose an agricultural career. The great majority enrolled in administrative careers influenced by the capitalist thinking we have inherited.

The revolution is planning "to prepare human resources in short, medium and large terms in technical careers with a high degree of political development and national awareness," Companero Arce noted.

The referent human resources currently are very few and this is directly related to the country's backward technology and economic bankruptcy. Commander Arce said that the country's potential resources and the high fighting spirit of the Nicaraguans are not enough to provide the social needs of the people.

He added: "We must exploit and encourage the exploitation of our resources. They must be distributed with revolutionary justice so that the workers and the peasants who are the first to give, will be the first to receive. We need technology in order to produce. We also need the men who know the technology and can carry it out in order to generate the wealth needed to solve our problems. We must speak about an education that responds to the needs of the professionals and technicians qualified to learn the new technology in order to carry out the projects to improve the social conditions demanded by our people."

Education for Workers and Peasants

Commander Arce said that the reason why many industries are not being managed by workers and peasants is because the bourgeoisie has always refused to educate them. The revolution will begin to solve the problems of development by concerning itself with the human resources in the working and peasant sectors.

He added that the government and its vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, are trying to increase the student capacity of the school of medicine. He also announced the creation of regional universities in the country's northern and Atlantic sectors and the government's establishment of the free education system at the National University. The latter cost the government 80 million cordobas. He emphasized that a political awareness in the students should be encouraged so that they can have a more direct contact with the country's situation and graduate as professionals who will fully meet the needs of the people.

He also referred to the "brain drain" that has taken place in our country. He attributed this to the fact that the Nicaraguan brains have always emerged from the bourgeoisie and the middle bourgeoisie [mediana burguesia] because their children were educated through the exploitation of others. Meanwhile, the peasants never had the chance to learn to read and write. Moreover, another phenomenon exists: the sons of peasants and workers who were able to go to the university lost their awareness and were influenced by the bourgeoisie and became bourgeois technicians.

CSO: 3010

CHARRASCA GROUP AIRS TENETS IN COMMUNIQUE

PA211815 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 16 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Communique from the General Staff of the Charrasca group of Leon to the workers and the people--date not given]

[Text] We inform the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], the combatants who fought against Somoza, the workers and the people in general of the following:

1. We are now out of jail because, the way we see it, we have committed no crime whatsoever. We will not, therefore, return to prison unless charges are publicly lodged against us and we are given an opportunity to defend ourselves. We cannot accept and will not accept indefinite arrest without specific charges against which we can defend ourselves. We have been and still are proven popular fighters, sons of workers and part of the oppressed people of Leon entitled to be free.

2. We feel the repression we have suffered at the hands of the FSLN--which led our struggle--is the result of scheming by the bourgeoisie, which feels a profound dislike and scorn for proletarian revolutionary fighters like us. It wants us, who will never allow an exploiting bourgeois government to be established in Nicaragua, to remain in jail, and has resorted to fabrications for this purpose. However, the people, who are familiar with our record as antiSomoquist strugglers, do not believe those groundless charges.

3. We deny all of the false accusations against us. We deny having shown a lack of discipline. Although we asked to be recruited as soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) we never formalized our request because nobody showed any interest in it.

4. We condemn the harassment activities against the EPS and deny having participated in such activities. Furthermore, it is not our intention to confront anyone except the remnants of Somozism. The campaign of groundless

charges against us has led some EPS members--of whom we are comrades in arms--to feel we are struggling against them. That is the reason our dear Companero Chepe Carreta was eliminated. However, we declare that our only enemies are the Somozists and those who exploit the people mercilessly.

5. We want to be free to engage in political work and to organize our companeros to defend this revolution and to advance toward socialism.

6. We will announce later the mediators we will appoint to handle our case. In addition we ask for the release of our fellow militants who are being held without charges. We also ask for support from the leftwing organizations.

Let us end exploitation by crushing the counterrevolution.

Workers and peasants to power.

SO: 3010

DANIEL ORTEGA SPEAKS AT INDIAN ASSEMBLY IN PUERTO CABEZAS

PA212224 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] Closing the fifth assembly of 185 Miskito and Sumu Indian communities of the Atlantic Coast, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] National Directorate, asserted that our revolution does not want to defend racial causes. Rather, it seeks the integration, identification and unity of the Nicaraguan people.

At the assembly held last Sunday at the Actos de Nino Jesus School in Puerto Cabezas, he held a friendly and open dialog with the persons attending the assembly from 0800 in the morning to 0100 the following morning. It was a long, revolutionary day of national identity.

At the assembly, Commander Ortega pointed out that Somozists and exploiting landowners were the only ones to blame for despoiling the land belonging to the Sumus and Miskitos. The Indians were always told that the Spanish conquistadors were still to blame for their plight.

"And these exploiters have not only harmed you. The policy of exploitation has also affected the peasants of Matagalpa and Monimbo."

He then referred to the voracious transnational companies which had become rich in the mines with the blood and sweat of our workers. This indiscriminate sacking killed our miners just like the defunct national guard did with its rifles.

"It is necessary to rescue our cultural values, our music, customs and the Miskito and Sumu languages which are being deformed," said Commander Ortega.

The fight our nation must undertake is to make the land more fruitful. Our revolution comes to the countryside so our peasants will participate. We are offering them the means and the techniques, he said.

"When we say peasants, we include the Sumus and Miskitos because they also work and live off the land," remarked Commander Ortega Saavedra.

"Your (the Miskitos and Sumus) immediate task is to become part of the nation's economic life and learn the Spanish language so you can become 'kupia-kumi' (a single heart) as a Miskito said at the assembly. However, you cannot become that nefarious 'kupia-kumi' of conservatives and liberals."

The junta member exhorted the Miskitos and Sumus to join popular and revolutionary organizations such as the Farmworkers Association.

At the conference of the Alliance for the Progress of Miskitos and Sumus [Alianza Para El Progreso de los Misquitos y Sumus--ALPROMISU], founded in 1973 in Bilwaskarma, Waspan, by Mullins Tilleth, Wycleffe Diego, Rev Salvador Maybith, Joaquín Suazo and Bonna Muller, the Indians unanimously decided to change the old acronym to Misurasata. Misurasata stands for Miskito, Sumus, Ramas and Sandinists. This symbolizes the Indians' total unity with our revolutionary organization, the FSLN.

In this regard, the Indian Mullins Tilleth, founder of ALPROMISU, stated his organization's inseparable stance with the FSLN. This brought applause from the delegates representing the 130,000 Miskitos and Sumus.

During the assembly, the voices of the Miskitos and Sumus were often raised to outline the problems they face due to the unfair policies of the previous regime and the arbitrary actions against them by some of the military.

One of the Indians told Commander Ortega he felt threatened by a militiaman who told him he could not attend the Indian assembly because he "would be imprisoned" if he did.

A woman, also Miskito, told of the arbitrary arrest of her son. To this, Commander Daniel Ortega replied that all these errors would be corrected, but they first had to be investigated,

Another Miskito asked about the fate of the Miskitos who had enrolled in the National Guard. In reply, the junta member said they would be freed unless they were found guilty of any crime,

The Miskitos and Sumus complained to Commander Ortega about their regrettable economic and social situation. They said health conditions are very poor in their areas. They also said there is a shortage of schools and doctors. During the Somozist regime, no doctors had been sent.

The Sandinist commander told them the FSLN had fought for them to eradicate the oppression of one class by another.

Now, the revolution will achieve its full potential, he said,

At the close of the assembly, the Miskitos, Sumus and Ramas unanimously elected their new board of directors. Elected were Stedman Fagot, Mildred Levy and Noel Patron.

This board was subdivided into five regions: Rio Coco, Puerto Cabezas, Bluefields and the mining zone [as published].

Later, Minister of Culture Ernesto Cardenal said the revolution will try to retrieve the Miskito and Sumu Indian culture which had been exploited and forgotten for centuries.

The Ministry of Culture will dedicate all its energy to rescuing and supporting this culture. It will promote the dancing, music and craftsmanship of the Miskitos and Sumus "before it is lost," said the poet Cardenal.

He added that there are plans to build an Indian university for Sumus, Ramas and Miskitos--a special university for the natives to study their culture.

Likewise, he told the Indians that our revolutionary government, through the Ministry of Culture, will publish books in the Miskito and Sumu languages. A loan is being obtained for this purpose, he added.

Following this, the Indians sang the FSLN anthem in Miskito and Spanish. The United Miskito and Sumu Youth Group for the Development of Education and Culture sang the anthem of our glorious vanguard, the FSLN.

CSO: 3010

LABOR MINISTER DISCUSSES SOLUTIONS TO COFFEE HARVEST PROBLEMS

PA210305 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 79 PA

[Statement by Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy to a Radio Sandino newsman on 17 November in Managua--recorded]

[Text] The preliminary investigations we have made have given us a good idea of the percentage of people unemployed in this country. The percentage is very high, and this situation concerns us. However, we have observed a manpower shortage in those zones where the coffee harvest has begun--notably Jinotega, Nueva Segovia and Madriz. It is an odd situation because in one sector we have unemployment and in another there is a manpower shortage. This can be explained, and we have tentatively discovered some problems contributing to the manpower shortage in harvesting the coffee.

First, workers used to emigrate to the coffee zones in the north every year. This has changed because the peasants are now working on farms which have been confiscated or seized by the workers. This is perhaps the factor keeping them from moving to their traditional working zones during this time of year.

Second, there is the coffee disease threat which has forced the government to keep the workers in the areas of Carazo and Masaya where this disease is seriously affecting coffee plantations. Furthermore, the coffee harvest in these zones will soon begin and the workers will have to stay where they are.

There are other problems we are trying to solve. One is that the workers cannot obtain proper food because this food is required for the plantations in the north. We are going to make sure they get enough nourishment.

Another problem affecting the coffee harvest is the lack of security for the plantation owners' vehicles. When they send their vehicles out to bring workers in, it often happens that the car disappears on the way. It is either taken without permission and driven somewhere else, or various other incidents occur making transportation of workers unreliable.

We also know that in some zones the workers are not getting paid on schedule. Workers here are used to getting paid by the end of the week. In some plantations there has been some delay in paying workers, and this certainly has not encouraged the workers to work on the plantations.

We are taking the necessary measures. We have talked with state departments concerned with this activity. We have also talked to labor centrals, notably the Rural Workers Association, to give our guarantee that this will not happen again. A certain payday will be established, food will be sufficient and transportation will be guaranteed. If this is done, I am sure it will contribute to improving the somewhat negative image that exists. Consequently, we can enjoy a profitable coffee harvest.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

MINE PRODUCTION FIGURES--The Neptuno Mine, which was nationalized by a decree of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has produced \$8.6 million in minerals. This figure surpasses what the Somozists registered in 1 year. Jorge Jenkins, of the Natural Resources and Environment Institute; Alfredo Alaniz, manager of the Central Bank and Ramiro Bermudez, of the Nicaraguan Mining Development Corporation [Corporacion Nicaraguense de Desarrollo Minero--CODEMINA] reported this to newsmen, explaining that out of 166,000 ounces of extracted material 1,600 is silver and the remainder is gold. However, this does not mean that the extracted bars are 100 percent gold. According to Companero Jenkins they also contain silver and zinc, varying in quality depending on the mine they were extracted from. For example, bars from the Neptuno Mine contain 40 percent of gold while those of the Rosita Mine contain only 4 percent. It must be stressed that the wealth that is to be generated from the minerals will not only depend upon the volume of it but also upon international market prices. Jenkins said our mines in the northwest have a production span of 5 to 8 years. Gold ingots were previously brought to Managua from the mines and then sent to the United States where they were processed outside of the control of the Nicaraguan Government. Even in July, shortly before the fall of the dictatorship, a secret shipment was sent from Puerto Isabel. This shipment was valued at \$500,000. Things have changed completely now from the participation of workers in the CODEMINA coordinating committee to the Central Bank control of the marketing of minerals. [Text] [PA220012 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Nov 79 pp 1, 4 PA]

CSO: 3010

'PATRIA' SEES USSR ABLE TO PROFIT FROM U.S.-IRAN CONFLICT

PY230052 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 22 Nov 79 p 5 PY

[From the "Very Private Phone Line" Column]

[Text] Uncle Sam is losing his patience. He is now trying through all peaceful means to save his citizens from the wratch of the Islamic raskutin.

There are insinuations that the last resort left is military action. He has not yet put his finger on the trigger, but in the fashion of the flamboyant cowboy, he is exercising his finger and checking on his "drawing" speed.

Carter is thus facing a problem crucial for him personally, for the United States and for the Western world.

In the meantime, the USSR keeps silent and waiting, in the expectation that an armed intervention by the United States will be an opportunity for it presented on a silver platter.

A U.S. armed intervention would be very handy for the opportunism of the Russians, letting the United States start the action to then beginning to make pronouncements and threatening an intervention of their own.

The USSR would thus unexpectedly appear as the great defender of Islam, thus gaining the tremendous political force of the religious fanaticism which is in a latent stage throughout the Arab world, provoking an oil supply cut off to the West.

The USSR will thus win World War III without firing a single bullet.

Carter's dilemma is very serious, because he is already being blamed for giving Iran too much time to grow more insolent, a time which the USSR is taking advantage of to shape its strategy.

The alternatives Carter faces are quite difficult: to attack Iran with the determination to confront the Soviet challenge or to attack Iran with the hope that the USSR will stay out. Moreover, there is another factor to think about. That is, if the Soviets do intervene, another alternative will present itself: a world holocaust or a U.S. humiliation. Unless, God willing, it is the USSR that ends up in humiliation and in an awkward position.

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

PLR MEMBERS EXPELLED--The executive board of the Radical Liberal Party (PLR) decided last night to expel six members of the party for rebelling against party authority and lacking ethics. The members expelled are: Justo Pastor Benitez, Ligia Prieto de Centurion, Aurelio Ramon Insfran, Victor Blas Aquino, Atilio Llano del Puerto and Emilio Loureiro, all of them legislators of the PLR. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 Nov 79 p 10 PY]

COST OF LIVING INCREASES--The Paraguayan Central Bank has reported that the cost of living has increased 26.9 percent during the first 9 months of this year. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Nov 79 p 5 PY]

CSO: 3010

FOLLE SPEAKS OF 'MANY CHANGES' IN RELATIONS WITE UNITED STATES

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Oct 79 p 10

[Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Adolfo Folle Martinez; reporter, date and place not given]

[Text] There have been many changes in relations between Uruguay and the United States and these relations have improved. This is what we gather from statements made yesterday by Minister of Foreign Affairs Adolfo Folle Martinez on his return to Montevideo. The minister declined to go into detail since, he said, he had to report to the president and the members of the governing junta of commanders-in-chief of the Armed Forces first.

At the beginning of the interview, reporters asked him about his speech and the position he assumed in it on the Middle East situation. In reply he said:

"In the speech we gave at the General Assembly we touched on different topics, among them the Middle East question, which is one that is really a priority concern of ours. Just as we have at other assemblies, we said that, if we really want to solve the problem once and for all, we must focus on it realistically and pragmatically."

[Question] Some reports state that Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay have been forming a bloc as a result of a meeting held by the four countries. Is this true?

[Answer] No. I have said, and I say it again at this time, that I had no knowledge of any of the participating countries' having formed a bloc nor any desire that they do so. It so happens that countries of this area were involved and, naturally, when we ministers of foreign affairs meet, we talk of common interests and, of course, agreements do come out of this.

[Question] What impression did you have of the pope's visit to the United Nations and the OAS?

[Answer] His appearance had a great impact on all the delegations because of the clear and emphatic way in which he focused on the various issues that are being discussed in these international organizations.

[Question] During your contact with the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, did you have a chance to talk about normalizing short-term relations?

[Answer] During my stay in New York and Washington, I had an opportunity to talk to several ministers of foreign affairs, not only from Latin America but also from other continents. Among those from Latin America I spoke with my Venezuelan colleague, who is a good friend. Naturally, we spoke of common interests.

[Question] You proposed or demanded special handling for oil purchases. Did this proposal produce any echo, any effect?

[Answer] On this issue there was total agreement and, in connection with it, the suggestion the president of Mexico made, which focused on the overall problem of buyer and supplier nations, produced a fresh breath of hope.

[Question] What was the result of your contacts with OAS authorities?

[Answer] We discussed current OAS topics, specifically economic issues and chiefly those on which there is agreement among all the countries in the area, with the secretary general and assistant secretary general of the OAS.

[Question] What is Uruguay's position on the reelection of the secretary general?

[Answer] It has been made public since last year. Uruguay is going to lend its support to the reelection of Secretary General Orfila and of Mr Zelaya Coronado as assistant secretary general.

[Question] You also had contacts with the American secretary of state and the new Uruguayan ambassador to the United States. How are Uruguayan-American relations?

[Answer] They are very good.

[Question] Has there been any change?

[Answer] Many changes.

[Question] What kind?

[Answer] Many. As you know, I have to report to the president and the commanders-in-chief. I expect to do so during the next few hours. I can say that the atmosphere is in general very good.

The Coming Elections

[Question] Was the issue of human rights discussed?

[Answer] We discussed all the issues with great frankness and I would say now with great understanding.

[Question] Did you, for example, speak about the coming elections in our country?

[Answer] Of course, we spoke of the whole political timetable, how it is evolving, how it is being carried out according to fixed goals, and this created a very good impression in the United States.

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'EL DIA' APPLAUDS ARISMENDI'S STAND ON PROTECTIONISM

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Oct 79 p 6

[Article: "What Are We to Do?"]

[Text] In a recent issue we commented on statements made by the Uruguayan minister of economy and finance at the Belgrade conference, statements which, according to the cablegram, were made not only in the name of this country's government but also of the others in the southern cone of South America.

Finance Minister Arismendi briefly described how our economies were opened by the economic teams currently in office in accordance with concepts of economic liberalism. Tariff reductions and other concrete steps that meant the adoption of measures designed to liberalize international trade. And he pointed out, by way of contrast, that the industrial nations, far from countering with a similar or corresponding position, maintain their protectionist and restrictionist policies notwithstanding.

Our question, which stems from Finance Minister Arismendi's own proposal, is: What policy are we then to maintain on positions that have no foreign counterpart and imply the abandonment of defensive practices which in turn are not abandoned by nations with economies incomparably more powerful than ours?

At this point in our reflections on the question, a colleague has published statements made by the president of the Wool-Carding Union of the Association of Uruguayan Textile Industries, Engineer Carl Bottaro. These statements were made in connection with new restrictions imposed by the EEC on the importation of Uruguayan wool tops. Of course, they cannot even find the courage to call a spade a spade as far as the provisions that have been adopted to our detriment are concerned. In their usual hypocritical way and in the terminology this hypocrisy gives rise to, the old EEC nations, enamored of certain concepts and always ready to give them the lie through their deeds, require "self-imposed restrictions" of us. This is really an attitude that seems to be more suited to children, but that is the way things are.

"We did not expect to see ourselves forced to limit our sales to the EEC," the above-mentioned Uruguayan industrial director says. The fact is, as he remembers it, this measure comes as no surprise since as early as a year ago the Uruguayan representatives had been called on to confer with the EEC. There is an organization called INTERLAINE [expansion unknown], composed of EEC wool-product manufacturers, and, he says, we know that this organization probably applied pressure to obtain "self-imposed restrictions" on us Uruguayans. Furthermore, since agreements had already been concluded with Argentina and Brazil, we Uruguayans had no choice but to accept the results of the negotiations.

There are two reasons why the EEC measure constitutes cause for rebellion. First, because it did not produce an increase in sales of Uruguayan tops that might presuppose a distortion. Strictly speaking, if a distortion had been produced, the EEC should have been obliged to tolerate it inasmuch as, if we produce better and cheaper, according to the rules of free competition and an open market (which everyone invokes but only Latin-American ingenueness respects), we have the right to displace INTERLAINE or anyone else. But the truth of the matter is that we did not even appreciably increase sales.

But second, as Engineer Carl Bottaro himself points out, because we are the world's third biggest exporter of tops, after France and Great Britain, with over 30 years of export "tradition." It is inadmissible that precisely the countries that supply us and from whom we buy highly industrialized products, including the machines we use in making tops, should oblige us to "restrict ourselves."

We have also recently discussed the "brain drain." Obviously, the only way to increase our population and retain our experts is to be in a position to offer them jobs, wages and a future inside our own borders. The selfish hypocrisy of the EEC and the big industrialized nations, which want unrefined wool and will not even tolerate the minimal number of Uruguayan farmhands required to produce tops, conspires against all this.

Meanwhile, while we maintain a free market policy here, they deny us entrance to the big markets through protectionist practices. This is what the strong do and we, who are weak, do just the opposite.

To the extent that it proclaims a profound truth, we feel that what Minister Arismendi said in Belgrade also obliges us to completely revise our trade strategy with regard to the world. The exciting issue is up for discussion and we must react to this challenge.

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CSO: 3010

LABOR ASSOCIATIONS BILL GOES TO PRESIDENT FOR APPROVAL

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Oct 79 p 11

[Text] "Final editing of the labor-union bill, to be submitted to the president for immediate consideration, has been concluded," said Minister of Labor and Social Security Dr Jose Enrique Etcheverry Stirling on his arrival in Montevideo from Medellin, where he had participated in the ILO regional meeting. He added that the regulatory package, which is to regulate national labor-union activity, will then be sent to the Cabinet before the end of the year.

Positive Meeting

He also said that the ILO regional meeting was a very positive one. "During the deliberations, whether members of the government, the working class or employers, the Uruguayan delegates clearly described the real situation in Uruguay, thereby invalidating the false interpretations that may crop up abroad.

"The meeting," he added, "gave rise to some expected outbursts. In Uruguay a union and labor reordering process is now going on for which many cannot forgive us for the fact that we are cleaning house. Therefore, several voices let themselves be heard. Thus a worldwide labor federation of clearly communist stamp attempted to register as a delegate to the meeting an ex-member of a workers association dissolved in 1973. Starting with its worker delegates, the Uruguayan delegation immediately entered its protest against this inadmissible act. This bore positive fruit since the communist organization's maneuver was unsuccessful," he noted.

Dr Etcheverry also said that there were no specific attacks on Uruguay during the meeting.

And lastly, concerning other matters, he emphasized that next week he would provide specific details on Institutional Act No 9 which deals with reform of the social security system.

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CSO: 3010

WHEAT PRICE MEASURES TO UNDERGO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Oct 79 p 6

[Text] The current minister of agriculture and fishing daily reiterates that the measures adopted in August 1978 will be retained but, fortunately, at least as far as wheat is concerned, the government obviously proposed to introduce some significant changes.

While former Minister Jorge Leon Otero did not participate in the preparation of the August package because he had not yet become a member of the Cabinet, we all remember his vigorous defense of it and his clear and incisive statements about the wheat situation. In widely reported statements, he said that the government would not fix prices. Free marketing in the broadest sense of the term would continue to be the rule and the only thing the government was guaranteeing was that, in the event we have to import wheat, a 30-percent duty would be imposed to protect Uruguayan producers.

Fortunately, the current position is quite different. "Our plan," the current minister has suddenly announced, "is to protect the farmer so he can sell his wheat at the right time and in the right way through a system that has not yet been specified, but we are looking for a way that will enable the producer to sell his wheat when he feels the time is right and at reasonable prices and to protect himself from the millers and grain storers, one that will allow for a price that can be regulated and that can compensate the producer for the work that he has put in during the year."

We have taken down the minister of agriculture's statements as they were transcribed by a colleague. And we are quite satisfied with this change in an orientation we believed to be very prejudicial to the nation.

The present position, which fully agrees with what we said in August 1978, and on many occasions before and after, seems to be much more appropriate.

11,466
CSO: 3010

MEAT EXPORT ACCORD WITH SAUDI ARABIA, PORTUGAL DETAILED

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 10 Oct 79 p 9

[Text] Directors of the Chamber of Meatpacking Industry (CIF) yesterday reported on a recent contract concluded with Saudi Arabia according to which our country will sell it 400 tons of lamb at a net price of \$1,760 a ton f.o.b.

The directors also said that in the international bidding opened by the Portuguese Livestock-Product Exchange 1,500 tons of beef were traded at a net price of \$1,911 a ton f.o.b.

New Market Indexes

During the recent closure of the EEC to this kind of meat, a new market was successfully opened, guaranteeing a first marketing

Although limited, the operation realized by the CIF, an organization composed of almost all firms equipped to export, points up some of the new parameters that will prevail in the international mutton and lamb market following the uncertainty generated by the closure of the EEC.

According to CIF sources, the Saudi Arabian deal fundamentally involved dressed lamb carcasses of from 8 to 13 kg, but also included in the 400 tons marketed a small number of dressed carcasses of from 13 to 16 kg at a price of \$1,680 a ton. These carcass prices are for fat, well dressed lambs weighing approximately 25 kg on the hoof.

This aspect of the sale, the weight and specifications of the animals requisitioned by the Saudi buyers, was especially emphasized by CIF spokesmen inasmuch as they expect there will be an important change as regards former requirements imposed by the now closed Italian market.

Fat Lambs at 5.50 Pesos

In a few days the meatpacking houses will start buying lambs to fill the Saudi order, as soon as the appropriate letters of credit reach Uruguay.

Moreover, it was felt to be the right moment to emphasize, to the sheepraisers, so that they can make the most appropriate decisions, that the kind of lamb they will have to focus on for this order will be: fat and well dressed and weighing about 25 kg on the hoof. According to the international price quoted, it is estimated that the domestic price will fluctuate about 5.50 pesos a kilogram for meat on the hoof, dependent upon the cost of freight to the packing house.

Real Price

Despite the fact that Uruguay bid prices higher than those quoted by the other countries in the Portuguese bidding, our country's bid of \$1,950 a ton, which discounting the 2 percent that goes to the CIF for representing us, comes to \$1,911, was accepted.

It is worth noting that the bid was accepted in view of the fact that "the Uruguayan bid conformed strictly to the bidding conditions and this paradoxically demonstrates that the prices the Uruguayan industry can quote are generally much higher than those quoted in very competitive Third World country bids. The Portuguese award is for meat now stored in the 10 export meatpacking plants affiliated with the CIF.

During a recent bidding in Egypt in which the same bidders who had participated in the Portuguese bidding took part, it was noted that Uruguayan prices were higher than those offered in a competitive bidding which included countries which, like Colombia and South Africa, do not have a lengthy history as meat exporters. In connection with this, it has been pointed out that the winning bid of \$1,650 a ton f.o.b. Buenos Aires came from a consortium that had also figured among the bidders in the Portuguese Livestock-Product Exchange bidding referred to above.

In the Portuguese case, the decisive factor was the fact that the CIF had bid on the basis of meat from previously slaughtered animals which was stored in packing houses and available for immediate shipment. Most of the other participants, who had made bids lower than the Uruguayan bid, had not conformed to the bidding conditions.

The Uruguayan sale, which is for 1,500 tons of straight-cut, balanced quarters, will be shipped on 24 November.

It should be noted that the prices currently quoted on the foreign market determine a domestic price that fluctuates about 7 pesos a kilogram for meat on the hoof.

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CSO: 3010

MIR MEMBERS PROMOTE 'RENEWAL OF MARXISM'

Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 22-28 Oct 79 pp 58-59

[Interview with Jesus Vethencourt, MIR leader, by Humberto J. Hernandez: "Renewal of Marxism Presented in MIR"]

[Text] Utopias, like ideologies, no longer respond to the dogmatic plans that used to be the adhesive force for members of political parties.

For that reason, the struggles between different interpretations within the parties do not surprise anyone. In the world of ideologies, different shades are common now; practical and theoretical shades of Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyite-Stalinist ideology all start from Bolshevik red. The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], for example, includes those ideological trends whose visible leaders are Americo Martin, Moises Moleiro, Rigoberto Lanz and Alberto Franceschi.

Jesus Vethencourt, a member of the Petare Council, agrees with Americo Martin who supports the thesis of Marxist renewal adapted to Venezuelan social reality. Vethencourt is a young lawyer and one of the most prominent veterans of the armed struggle of the 1960's. Now he is a member of the MIR National Command and secretary general of that party in Miranda State.

Strengthening Discussion

A short talk with Jesus Vethencourt leaves the sensation that he is an ascetic person who speaks frankly. There is no sign of the past rash behavior which would have been common to that anarchist generation.

To break the ice, he said: "There is discussion within the MIR which we are sure will strengthen it rather than weaken it. Of course,

there are different positions, different trends. I belong to the renewal group headed by Americo Martin which is the clear majority today. To us, the use of the majority will not mean exclusion of any comrade who belongs to another trend. We are the majority and we are going to win at the national conference that will be held on 9, 10 and 11 November, but democratically we will respect the minorities. We do not believe in monolithic parties; we believe in parties where different ideological trends coexist with refreshing and enriching discussion and without penalizing any opinion."

Renewal Position

He said that discussion reveals the reality of the MIR and affects the entire national left because essential elements are discussed to design a policy to gain access to the government for the Venezuelan popular movement through the democratic coalition of forces.

[Question] How is the renewal thesis presented within the MIR?

[Answer] First, we are fighting so that the party will not be a dogmatic party but the opposite--a fresh party, open and receptive to the new contributions that have enriched Marxism.

[Question] Do you want a pragmatic party?

[Answer] No, quite the contrary. Pragmatism is tied to backwardness and dogmatism. We rebel against viewing Marxism as a catechism or a bible. We are open to any idea that enriches Marxism.

[Question] Perhaps you mean reformist revisionism?

[Answer] No, we feel that the historic alternative group to replace this existing order must be led by the workers. Access to the government must be won through the complete implantation of socialism, not the gradual replacement of this dependent capitalist order reigning in Venezuela.

Second, we also want a broadly democratic party which will permit a flow of opinions that links and relates the party rank and file with the leaders and also permits the decisions made by the leaders to take into account the opinions of the entire party and not just those of the leaders. It should also permit constant change in the party leadership.

Third, it should be a party at the service of the class struggle which has the workers as its historic subject. It should understand that the conflict to be resolved in the country is the conflict between capital and labor.

Fourth, it should be a party of the masses concerned with linking itself to the country in integral terms, involving itself with all the problems and emerging as the vanguard of the workers. We believe in that party. Thus, the renewal trend that Americo Martin espouses and we support is against any manifestation of bureaucracy or dogmatism.

State at the Service of the People

Vethencourt explained that they conceive of a Venezuelan state that is at the service of the people, particularly the workers.

He added: "That is also a state that respects freedom. To us, there cannot be socialism without democracy. We have maintained and we still maintain that socialism is the maximum expression of freedom and democracy because there cannot be any conflict between socialism and democracy. On the contrary, in essence socialism is democracy so where there is democracy, there is socialism."

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CSO: 3010

1980 BUDGET: DIM OUTLOOK FOR FISCAL AUSTERITY

Caracas RESUMEN in Spanish 21 Oct 79 pp 3-4

[Article: "After Everything Said,...Nothing"]

[Text] Ivan Pulido Mora, an expert in public finances, summarized his professional evaluation in those words after a quick perusal of the 1980 budget bill presented to the congress by Minister Ugueto last Monday, 8 October. Our collaborator will give a detailed analysis of the different aspects of that bill in the coming days. However, his basic indication is that the central objective of the new government's fiscal policy--fiscal discipline and austerity--repeated on innumerable occasions since 12 March, is not part of the budget bill. President Herrera and the government party will be the first to be surprised to see that three-fourths of the increased oil revenue is eaten up by increased current expenditures.

Pulido Mora made comparisons with the final amount in 1978, guided by a statement in the finance minister's speech: "The unreliability of current expenditures in the 1979 budget of expenditures should not be forgotten." Thus, oil revenue increases 10.012 billion bolívares (39.8 percent) and current expenditures increase 7.511 billion (29.9 percent). That is, they increase similarly to the years following the oil bonanza but personnel expenditures increase 4.165 billion bolívares, 55.4 percent of the increased current expenditures. Pulido Mora added that, since the additional 2.007 billion bolívares in transfers to decentralized organizations are almost all destined to personnel expenditures, it can be concluded that 6.172 billion bolívares--82.2 percent of the increase in current expenditures--are for more pay for the bureaucracy.

At the same time, Pulido Mora indicated that, while this is happening with current expenditures, capital expenditures decrease 6.172 billion bolívares (33.8 percent). This corresponds to a similar increase (6.02 billion bolívares) in the public debt service.

UTILIZACIÓN DEL AUMENTO DEL INGRESO PETROLERO-1978-80				
(1) Proyecto Peto		(2) Variación		
1978	1980	Absolute	Porcentual	
		(3)	(4)	
(6)	(5) (millones de bolívares)			%
Ingresos Petroleros	22122.	22122.	12211.	22.2.
Gastos Corrientes (7)	22122	22122	2211.	22.2.
- Gastos de Personal (8)	1115	15280	4143	37.5
- Transferencias a entes descentralizados (9)	3404	3411	2007	59.0
- Transferencias a Universidades e Institutos de Educación Superior (10)	3049	3477	428	13.9
- Transferencias Entes Regionales (11)	2044	4255	1214	39.4
Otros (12)	4433	4170	-263	-4.4
(13)				

Fuente: Exposición de Motivos del Proyecto de Ley de Presupuesto 1980

Use of Increase in Oil Revenue 1978-80

Key:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. 1980 budget bill | 9. Transfers to decentralized organizations |
| 2. Variation | 10. Transfers to universities and higher education |
| 3. Absolute | 11. Transfers to regional organizations |
| 4. Percentage | 12. Others |
| 5. Millions of bolívares | 13. Source: Speech on reasons for 1980 budget bill |
| 6. Oil revenue | |
| 7. Current expenditures | |
| 8. Personnel expenditures | |

Ivan Pulido Mora showed surprise that the government presented its fiscal policy stating that it "is fully aware that the major programs in progress or those that will begin later /cannot be financed with ordinary revenue from the National Treasury/ [in italics] nor can the floating debt be amortized with this revenue." Ivan Pulido Mora felt that if that is to be the characteristic of the present government's action, it is not risky to state that the criticized facileness, a Venezuelan trait, will continue to be financed by resources from more oil and a higher foreign debt.

That means that the wholesome aspiration that, in the best of cases, the balance of the public debt would be maintained at the present level will not become reality. The debt would increase as a consequence of the accelerated growth of current expenditures. Between 1978 and 1980, current expenditures would grow at an average annual rate of 14 percent, as if we were in the oil bonanza years.

DISTRIBUCION DE LOS GASTOS DE INVERSION POR AUMENTO SERV. CICLO DEUDA PUBLICA. - 1978-80.				
(1) Presupuesto Pto.		(2) Variación		
1978	1980	absoluta	porcentaje	
(3)	(4)			
(5) (millones de Bolívars)				
Gastos de Capital (6)	11137	11267	-130	-1.2
inversión directa (7)	6481	2533	-3948	-60.9
transferencias Netas descentralizadas (8)	7204	8678	-1474	-20.5
el Otras (9)	6674	7506	-1832	-27.5
Servicio Deuda Pública (10)	11137	11267	-130	-1.2
(11)				
Fuente: Exposición de Motivos del Proyecto de Ley de Presupuesto 1980				

Decreased Investment Expenditures Because of Increased Public Debt Service 1978-80

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. 1980 budget bill | 8. Transfers to decentralized organizations |
| 2. Variation | 9. Others |
| 3. Absolute | 10. Public debt service |
| 4. Percentage | 11. Source: Speech on reasons for 1980 budget bill |
| 5. Millions of bolívars | |
| 6. Capital expenditures | |
| 7. Direct investment | |

As to total public expenditures, the increase is higher, going from 51.213 billion bolívars in 1978 to 67.077 billion in 1980 (including the 10 billion bolívars additional debt announced by Minister Ugueto), for a percentage increase of 31 percent and an average annual increase of 14.5 percent.

Concerning the public debt, Pulido Mora stated that, since there were no in-depth solutions to the unsettled national fiscal sector, the minister's speech on reasons informed Venezuela that "10 billion bolívars in additional debt will be requested," not to pay for part of the burdensome 100 billion debt but to increase it.

Pulido Mora's preliminary opinion on the 1980 budget bill ended with the words Minister Ugueto himself used to characterize the previous administration: "It is clear from all the above that the rate of spending and planned future expenditures...surpass the real possibilities of the country, not only the fiscal possibilities but others."

	(1) Ingresos petroleros	(2) Ingresos Sector interno	(3) Ingresos sector interno y endeudamiento	(4) gastos corrientes	(5) Gastos Corrientes y Servicios de la deuda	(6) Inversión
1974	100	100	100	100	100	100
1975	86.8	148.9	147.2	126.6	107.1	81.3
1976	76.9	162.8	238.1	143.5	153.1	66.9
1977	80.7	178.2	342.4	171.0	175.8	74.9
1978	89.1	241.0	401.1	174.2	176.5	76.5
1979	90.9	257.9	323.0	196.7	199.3	80.4
1980	96.5	289.9	344.5	226.1	238.7	90.6

(7)
Fuente: Exposición de motivos proyecto ley de presupuesto de 1980

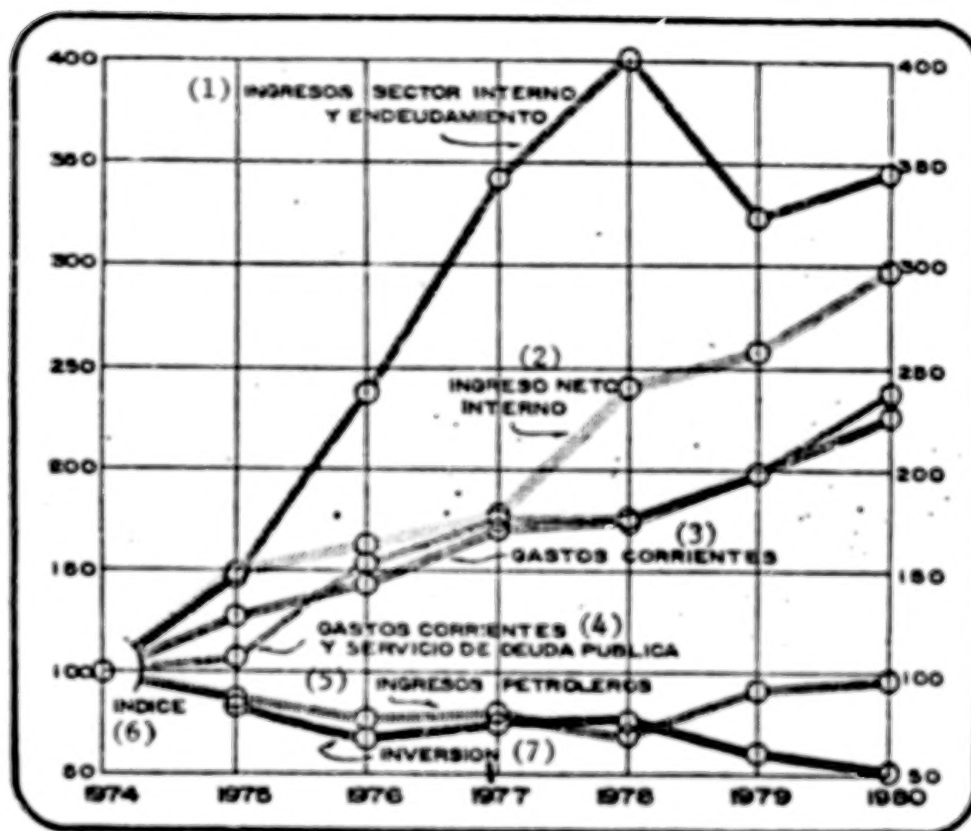
	(8) Millones de bolívares					
1974	36,444.9	6,304.0	6,354.8	14,414.9	18,681.9	23,834.6
1980	33,184.8	18,418.3	21,892.0 *	32,617.9	44,590.5	12,067.4 *

(9)
* No incluye los Bs. 10,000 millones anunciados como endeudamiento adicional para 1980

Fiscal Indicators

Key:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Oil revenue | 6. Investment |
| 2. Revenue from internal sector | 7. Source: Speech on reasons for 1980 budget bill |
| 3. Revenue from internal sector and debt | 8. Millions of bolívares |
| 4. Current expenditures | 9. Does not include announced 10 billion bolívares in additional debt for 1980 |
| 5. Current expenditures and debt services | |



Revenue and Expenditures Curve

Key:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Revenue from internal sector and debt | 4. Current expenditures and public debt service |
| 2. Net internal revenue | 5. Oil revenue |
| 3. Current expenditures | 6. Index |
| | 7. Investment |

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